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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(AUTHORISED EDITION)

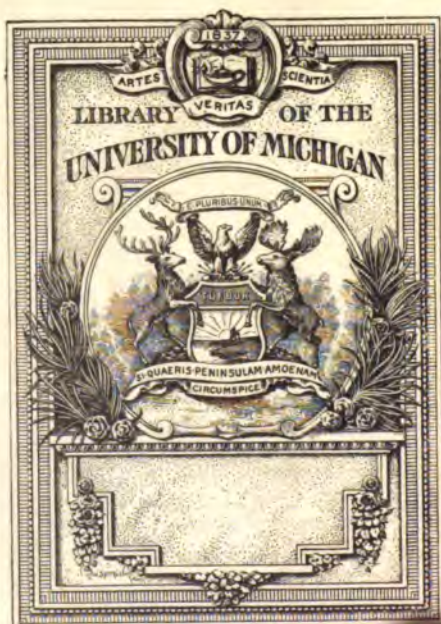
For Session 1899.

TENTH VOLUME OF SESSION.

CONTAINING THE
SPEECHES BOTH HOUSES FROM THE TWENTY-FOURTH JULY
TO THE FOURTH AUGUST.

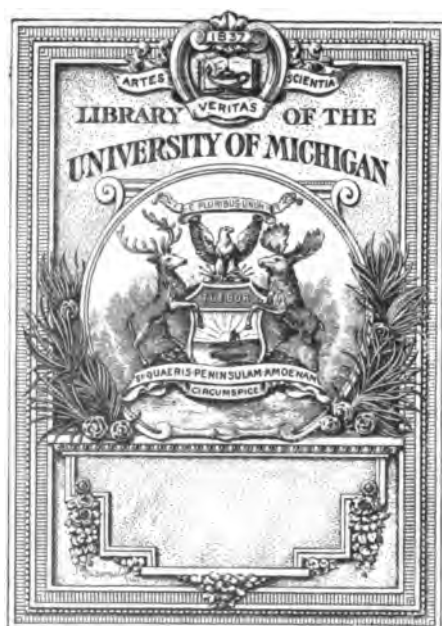


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THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(AUTHORISED EDITION),

FOURTH SERIES.

COMMENCING WITH THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

OF THE

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

62 VICTORIÆ.

VOLUME LXXV,

COMPRISING THE PERIOD FROM

THE TWENTY-FOURTH DAY OF JULY

TO

THE FOURTH DAY OF AUGUST

1899.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED,

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1899.

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38 and 39 Vic., c. 63	The Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875	In section two the definition of the term "food." In section fourteen the words "offer to," and the words "proceed accordingly and shall." Section fifteen.
42 and 43 Vic., c. 30	The Sale of Food and Drugs Act Amendment Act, 1879	Section ten.
50 and 51 Vic., c. 29	The Margarine Act, 1887	In section six the words "or with," and the words "not less than a quarter of an inch square."
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Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 10, to leave out from the word 'with,' to the word 'appointed,' in line 11, and insert the words, 'a president'—(*Mr. Dillon*)—instead thereof."

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

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Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 133 ; Noes, 78. (Division List, No. 292.)

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 20, to leave out from the word 'elected,' to the word 'Parliament,' in line 23, inclusive, and insert the words 'and shall be deemed to be an office included in Schedule H of The Representation of the People Act, 1867, in Schedule H of The Representation of the People (Scotland) Act, 1868, and in Schedule E of The Representation of the People (Ireland) Act, 1868,'—(*Sir Charles Dilke*)—instead thereof."

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

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The House divided :—Ayes, 161 ; Noes, 91. (Division List, No. 293.)

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 29, to leave out the word 'two,' and insert the word 'four,' instead thereof."—(*Mr. Dillon.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'two' stand part of the Bill."

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DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. G. W. Balfour</i> ...	110	<i>Mr. Michael Austin (Limerick, W.)</i>	112
<i>Mr. Davitt (Mayo, S.)</i> ...	110	<i>Mr. Dillon</i> ...	113
<i>Mr. Power (Waterford, E.)</i>	111	<i>Mr. Courtney (Cornwall, Bodmin)</i>	113
<i>Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.)</i>	111	<i>Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice (Wilts, Cricklade)</i> ...	113
<i>Sir Thomas Esmonde</i> ...	111	<i>Mr. G. W. Balfour</i> ...	113
<i>Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.)</i> ...	112		

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Other Amendments made.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be read the third time."—(*Mr. G. W. Balfour.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. T. M. Healy</i> ...	114	<i>Mr. Arthur Moore (Londonderry)</i>	118
<i>Mr. Power</i> ...	115	<i>Mr. Dillon</i> ...	118
<i>Mr. William Johnston</i> ...	116	<i>Mr. Flynn</i> ...	120
<i>Sir Thomas Esmonde</i> ...	116	<i>Mr. G. W. Balfour</i> ...	120
<i>Mr. Davitt</i> ...	117		

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

Telegraphs (Telephonic Communication, &c.) Bill—Order for Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now considered."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Captain Sinclair (Forfarshire)</i>	122	<i>The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Hanbury, Preston.)</i> ...	126
<i>Mr. Buchanan (Aberdeenshire, E.)</i> ...	125	<i>Mr. Buchanan</i> ...	126

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day three months.'"—(*Captain Sinclair.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir Charles Cameron (Glasgow, Bridgeton)</i> ...	127	<i>Mr. Moulton (Cornwall, Launceston)</i> ...	132
<i>Mr. Provand (Glasgow, Blackfriars)</i> ...	128	<i>Mr. Hanbury</i> ...	137
<i>Mr. Faithfull Begg (Glasgow, St. Rollox)</i> ...	129	<i>Mr. J. A. Pease (Northumberland, Tyneside)</i> ...	140
<i>Mr. McArthur (Liverpool, Exchange)</i> ...	130	<i>Mr. Kimber (Wandsworth)</i> ...	143
		<i>Mr. Hanbury</i> ...	146
		<i>Mr. Kimber</i> ...	146

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 174 ; Noes, 41. (Division List, No. 294.)

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill considered.

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Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 5, to leave out Clause 1.”—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)

Question proposed, “That the words, ‘The Treasury may,’ stand part of the Bill.”

DISCUSSION:—

<i>Captain Sinclair</i>	154	<i>Sir J. Joicey (Durham, Chester-</i>	
<i>Sir J. T. Woodhouse (Hudders-</i>		<i>le-Street)</i>	160
<i>field)</i>	155	<i>Mr. J. Parker Smith (Lanark-</i>	
<i>Sir John Lubbock (London Uni-</i>		<i>shire, Partick)</i>	162
<i>versity)</i>	156	<i>Mr. Cawley (Lancashire, Prestwich)</i>	162
<i>Mr. Hanbury</i>	160	<i>Mr. Labouchere (Northampton)</i>	163

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 208 ; Noes, 32. (Division List, 295).

Another Amendment made.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 13, to leave out Clause 2.”—(*Mr. Kimber.*)

Question proposed, “That the word ‘where,’ stand part of the Bill.”

<i>Sir J. Joicey</i>	168
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Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 13, after the word ‘Where,’ to insert the words, ‘a county council or.’”—(*Mr. Parker Smith.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Hanbury</i>	170	<i>Sir J. Joicey</i>	170
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Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 24, to leave out from the word ‘granted,’ to the end of Clause 2, and to insert the words, ‘Provided always that no part of that area be outside the borough or urban district.’”—(*Mr. Faithfull Begg.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out, to the word ‘be,’ in line 25, stand part of the Bill.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir Charles Cameron</i>	171	<i>Mr. Provand</i>	171
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Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

“Clause 2, page 2, line 6, after ‘rate,’ to insert the words, ‘or the district fund and general district rate.’”—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted,” put and agreed to.

Other Amendments made.

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Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, line 23, to leave out the words, ‘within the area, or part thereof, specified in the new licence.’”—(*Mr. Moulton.*)

Question proposed, “That the words ‘within the area’ stand part of the Bill.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Hanbury</i>	173	<i>Sir J. Joicey</i>	173
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Question put, and agreed to.

<i>The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)</i>	...	173
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Further consideration, as amended, deferred till To-morrow.

Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Bill—Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question [4th July], “That the Bill be now read the third time.”

Question again proposed.

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. J. E. Ellis (Nottingham-shire, Rushcliffe)</i>	...	174	<i>Mr. Lewis (Flint Boroughs)</i>	...	175
<i>Mr. Parker Smith (Lanark-shire, Partick)</i>	...	174	<i>Mr. Arthur Elliot (Durham)</i>	...	177
			<i>Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs)</i>		178

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

Land Tax Commissioners' Names Bill—Considered in Committee.

Clause 1 :—

Committee report Progress ; to sit again To-morrow.

SUPPLY [21ST JULY]—Resolutions reported.

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1899–1900.

1. Sec. 3. “That a sum, not exceeding £6,601,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Expense of the Contract Work for Shipbuilding, Repairs, etc., which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900.”

2. Sec. 2. “That a sum, not exceeding £3,799,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Expense of the Material for Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, etc., including the cost of Establishments of Dockyards and Naval Yards at Home and Abroad, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900.”

3. Sec. 1. “That a sum, not exceeding £2,417,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Expense of the Personnel for Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, &c., including the cost of Establishments of Dockyards and Naval Yards at Home and Abroad, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900.”

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4. "That a sum, not exceeding £261,600, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Expenses of the Admiralty Office, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900."

Resolutions agreed to 178

Congested Districts (Scotland) Act Amendment Bill [Lords]—Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn 179

Metropolitan Police Bill—SECOND READING.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time.

Order for Second Reading read.

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Caldwell (Lanark, Mid)</i>	179	<i>Dr. Clark (Caithness)</i>	180
<i>The Secretary of State for the</i>		<i>Mr. John Burns (Battersea)</i>	180
<i>Home Department (Sir M.</i>			
<i>White Ridley, Lancashire,</i>			
<i>Blackpool)</i>	179		

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

Gordon Memorial College at Khartoum Bill—SECOND READING.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.)</i>	180	<i>Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs)</i>	181
<i>Mr. Davitt (Mayo, S.)</i>	181	<i>The Chancellor of the Exchequer</i>	
<i>Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.)</i>	181	<i>(Sir M. Hicks-Beach, Bristol,</i>	
<i>Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire,</i>		<i>W.)</i>	181
<i>Mid)</i>	181		

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed, for To-morrow.

Isle of Man (Customs) Bill—Read a Second time, and committed for To-morrow... .. 181

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN OVERTIME IN WASHING BOTTLES, &C.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That the Order of the Secretary of State for the Home Department, extending to factories and workshops in which the washing of bottles for use in the preserving of fruit is carried on, the special exception (Employment of Women Overtime) ought to be annulled."—(*Sir James Rankin.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. J. E. Talbot (Oxford</i>		<i>Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucester,</i>	
<i>University)</i>	183	<i>Forest of Dean)</i>	186
<i>The Secretary of State for the</i>		<i>Mr. Asquith</i>	186
<i>Home Department (Sir M.</i>		<i>Mr. John Burns (Battersea)</i>	186
<i>White Ridley, Lancashire,</i>		<i>Mr. Maddison (Sheffield, Bright-</i>	
<i>Blackpool)</i>	184	<i>side)</i>	186
<i>Mr. Asquith (Fifeshire, E.)</i>	184	<i>Captain Norton (Newington, W.)</i>	186
<i>Sir M. White Ridley</i>	185	<i>Mr. Tennant</i>	187
<i>Mr. Tennant (Berwickshire)</i>	185	<i>Sir M. White Ridley</i>	188
<i>Mr. Hazell (Leicester)</i>	186	<i>Sir James Rankin (Herefordshire)</i>	188

The House divided :—Ayes, 25 ; Noes, 83. (Division List, No. 296.)

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POST OFFICE MAIL CONTRACT (HARWICH TO THE HOOK OF HOLLAND)— Resolved—"That the contract, dated the 3rd day of April, 1899, between the Postmaster-General and the Great Eastern Railway Company, for the daily conveyance of mails from Harwich to the Hook of Holland, be approved."—(<i>Mr. Hanbury</i>)	188
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In pursuance of the Order of the House of the 17th day of this instant July, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Two of the clock.

LORDS: TUESDAY, 25TH JULY 1899.

MARQUESS OF HEADFORT —Report made from the Lord Chancellor, that the right of Geoffrey Thomas Marquess of Headfort to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland has been established to the satisfaction of the Lord Chancellor; read, and ordered to lie on the Table	189
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NEW PEERS.

The Lord KENLIS (<i>M. Headfort</i>)—Sat first in Parliament after the death of his father	189
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Sir HORATIO HERBERT KITCHENER, K.C.B., K.C.M.G. , Major-General of Her Majesty's Forces, Sirdar of the Egyptian Army, having been created Baron Kitchener of Khartoum, and of Aspull in the county of Suffolk—Was (in the usual manner) introduced	189
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EVELYN LORD CROMER, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., C.I.E. , Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General in Egypt, and Minister Plenipotentiary in the Diplomatic Service, having been created Viscount Cromer of Cromer, in the county of Norfolk—Was (in the usual manner) introduced	189
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PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Gateshead and District Tramways Bill —Reported, with Amendments	189
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Derwent Valley Water Bill —The Queen's Consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments	189
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Dublin Corporation (Markets) Bill —Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments	189
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London, Walthamstow, and Epping Forest Railway (No. 2) Bill —Reported, with Amendments	189
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Dublin Corporation Bill —Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments	190
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Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 20) Bill —Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House	190
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Worcestershire County Council Bill ; Darwen Corporation Bill —Read the third time, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons	190
Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [LORDS]—Returned from the Commons agreed to	190
Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill —Returned from the Commons, with the Amendment agreed to	190
Central London Railway Bill ; Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Bill ; Great Western Railway Bill ; Manchester Corporation (General Powers) Bill —Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to	190
Humber Conservancy Bill [Lords] ; Lea Bridge District Gas Bill [Lords] ; Sunderland Corporation Bill [Lords]—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments	190
Local Government Provisional Order (No. 14) Bill —Amendments reported (according to Order), and Bill to be read the third time on Thursday next...	190
Local Government Provisional Order (No. 15) Bill —House in Committee (according to Order) ; Bill reported without Amendment ; Standing Committee negatived ; and Bill to be read the third time on Thursday next...	190

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC —Further correspondence relating to proposed political reforms in the South African Republic (in continuation of [C.—9345.] and [C.—9404.])...	191
TRADE REPORTS—MISCELLANEOUS SERIES—No. 508. Commercial education in Sweden and Norway	191
BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES (ENGLAND) —Sixty-first Annual Report of the Registrar-General, for 1898	191
LAND LAW (IRELAND) ACT, 1887 (EVICTION NOTICES) —Return of the number of eviction notices filed during the quarter ended 30th June, 1899	191
QUEEN'S COLLEGE, BELFAST —Annual Report of the President, for the Session 1898–99	191
JAMAICA —Report of the finances of Jamaica by Sir David Barbour, K.C.S.I. (in continuation of [C.—9177], February 1899). Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table	191
Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Bill —Brought from the Commons ; read the first time ; to be printed ; and to be read a second time on Monday next—(<i>The Lord Ashbourne.</i>) (No. 180.)	

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The Earl of Mayo</i>	191	<i>The Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs</i> (<i>The Marquess of Salisbury</i>)	191
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Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Bill—Brought from the Commons; read the first time; to be printed; and to be read a second time on Thursday next.—(*The Lord Balfour of Burleigh*). (No. 181.)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Lord Tweedmouth</i>	...	192	<i>The Secretary for Scotland</i>	
			(<i>Lord Balfour of Burleigh</i>)	192

Public Libraries Bill [Lords]—SECOND READING—Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

Moved—

“That the Bill be now read the second time.”—(*Lord Windsor*.)

<i>Lord Harris</i>	194
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On Question, agreed to.

Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

Small Houses (Acquisition of Ownership) Bill—House in Committee, according to Order.

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3 :—

Amendment moved—

“In Clause 3, page 3, line 33, after ‘bankruptcy,’ to insert, (6.) Any house or land which a local authority may become possessed of by default in complying with the provisions of this Act, or breach of its conditions, shall, as soon as possible, be sold for the best price that can be gotten for the same; and the original owner thereof shall have the first option of purchasing it.”—(*The Lord Norton*.)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The Under Secretary of State</i>		<i>Lord Norton</i>	...	...	...	198
<i>for the Colonies (The Earl</i>						
<i>of Selborne)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	196

On Question, “That these words be here inserted,” resolved in the negative.

Clauses 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 agreed to.

Clause 8 :—

Amendment moved—

“To leave out Clause 8, and insert as new clauses :

“8.—(1.) A local authority shall keep at their offices a book containing a list of any advances made by them under this Act, and shall enter therein with regard to each advance—

- (i) a description of the house in respect of which the advance is made;
- (ii) the amount advanced;
- (iii) the amount for the time being repaid;
- (iv) the name of the proprietor for the time being of the house; and
- (v) such other particulars as the local authority think fit to enter.

(2.) The book shall be open to inspection at the office of the local authority during office hours free of charge.

"9.—(1.) The registration of the title of houses in respect of which advances are made shall be compulsory under this Act—

(a) in any county or part of a county where registration is compulsory in pursuance of an Order made under Section twenty of the Land Transfer Act, 1897; and

(b) in any county or borough the council of which, at any time after the expiration of three years from the making of the first Order under Section twenty of the Land Transfers Act, 1897, pass a resolution that the registration of the title of houses in respect of which advances are made shall be compulsory under this Act.

(2) Where the registration of the title of houses in respect of which advances are made is compulsory under this Act, the following provisions shall apply with respect to advances made under this Act after the date on which the registration so becomes compulsory :—

(a) Where a local authority make any such advance they shall cause the ownership (including any interest held by the proprietor on his purchase of the ownership) in respect of which the advance is made to be registered under the Land Transfers Acts, 1875 and 1897, and shall pay the cost of such registration out of the advance.

(b) Rules under those Acts—

(i) shall adapt those Acts to the registration of ownerships under this section and provide for the easy transfer of such ownerships, and for the fee upon any such transfer not exceeding ten shillings; and

(ii) shall on the application and at the expense of a local authority provide by the appointment of local agents or otherwise for carrying into effect the objects of this section; and

(iii) shall provide for preventing the removal from the register of a house to which the statutory conditions apply.

(3.) The proprietor of a house for the purposes of this Act shall be—

(a) where the ownership of the house is registered in pursuance of this section, the person appearing on the register for the time being as proprietor; and

(b) in any other case the purchaser of the ownership, or, on any devolution or transfer, the person in whom the interest of the purchaser is for the time being vested."—(*The Earl of Selborne.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The Earl of Denbigh</i>	...	201	<i>The Lord Chancellor (The Earl of Halsbury)</i>	201
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On Question, "That Clause 8 stand part of the Bill," resolved in the negative.

On Question, "That the new Clause 8 be here inserted," agreed to.

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The Earl of Kimberley</i>	...	201	<i>The Lord Chancellor</i>	...	202
<i>Lord Thring</i>	...	201	<i>The Marquess of Salisbury</i>	...	202

On Question, "That the new Clause 9 be here inserted," resolved in the negative.

Clause 9 :—

Amendment moved—

"In page 6, line 13, to leave out from 'district' to 'pass' in line 14; and in line 15, after 'council,' to insert 'with the consent of the council of the county or county borough.'"—(*The Marquess of Ripon.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Lord Thring</i>	...	204	<i>The Earl of Kimberley</i>	...	207
<i>The Earl of Selborne</i>	...	205	<i>The Marquess of Salisbury</i>	...	208
<i>The Marquess of Ripon</i>	...	206	<i>The Marquess of Ripon</i>	...	209
<i>Lord Thring</i>	...	206	<i>The Earl of Selborne</i>	...	209
<i>The Earl of Selborne</i>	...	206			

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

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Clauses 9 and 10 agreed to.

Clause 11 :—

Amendment moved—

“ In page 8, line 20, to leave out ‘ the expression “ house ” shall include “ lands.” ’ ”—(*The Earl of Selborne.*)

On Question, “ That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause,” resolved in the negative.

Clause 11, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 12 and 13 agreed to

Clause 14 :—

Amendment moved—

“ In page 11, after line 29, to insert as new sub-sections :

“ (2) The words ‘ house ’ shall be deemed to include lands.

“ (3) Where any district council is the owner of any house under the provisions of the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, such council may advance money to the occupier to enable him to acquire the ownership of the house under the conditions of this Act provided that all moneys received from the occupier shall be applied to the extinction of any debt incurred by such council under the provisions of the Labourers (Ireland) Acts.”—(*Lord Kenry (E. Dunraven and Mount-Earl.)*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The Earl of Denbigh</i>	...	211	<i>The Ear of Dunraven</i>	...	212
<i>The Earl of Mayo...</i>	...	212			

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

“ In page 12, line 23, at end of clause, to insert, as a new sub-section : ‘ An advance shall not be made under this Act for the purpose of a house required under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, 1893 to 1896, and held by the district council under these Acts. ’ ”—(*The Earl of Denbigh.*)

On Question, “ That this sub-section be here inserted,” agreed to.

Clause 14, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 15, agreed to.

Bill re-committed to the Standing Committee ; and to be printed as amended. (No. 182.) 213

University of London Act (1898) Amendment Bill—Read the third time (according to Order) ; an Amendment made ; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons 213

QUESTIONS.

TRANSVAAL AFFAIRS—Question, The Earl of Camperdown ; Answer, The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies (*The Earl of Selborne*) ... 213

EXCISE PROSECUTIONS IN MAYO—Question, The Earl of Mayo ; Answer, The Secretary for Scotland (*Lord Balfour of Burleigh*) 215

House adjourned at a quarter past Six of the clock.

COMMONS : TUESDAY, 25TH JULY 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Glasgow Corporation Telephones Bill—Order for Second reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Second Reading be deferred."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Duncombe</i> (<i>Cumberland, Egremont</i>)	216	<i>Mr. Gibson Bowles</i> (<i>Lynn Regis</i>) .	216
<i>Mr. Caldwell</i> (<i>Lanark, Mid</i>)	216	<i>Sir Charles Cameron</i> (<i>Glasgow, Bridgeton</i>)	216

Question put, and agreed to.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday, 2nd August.

London and North-Western Railway (Additional Powers) Bill—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to, with Amendments; and a consequential Amendment made to the Bill 216

Loughborough Corporation Bill [Lords]; **Mersey Docks and Harbour Board (Finance) Bill** [Lords]; **Port Talbot Railway and Docks Bill** [Lords]; **Whitehaven Corporation Bill** [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 217

Moss Side Urban District Council (Tramways) Bill [Lords]; **Renfrew Burgh and Harbour Extension Bill** [Lords]; **Stretford Urban District Council (Tramways) Bill** [Lords]; **Withington Urban District Council (Tramways) Bill** [Lords]—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 217

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill; **Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12) Bill**—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to 217

Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords]—Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow ... 217

Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 3) Bill [Lords]—Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow... .. 217

North Staffordshire Railway Bill [Lords]—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 217

South Staffordshire Tramways Bill [Lords]—Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 218

Birmingham, North Warwickshire, and Stratford-upon-Avon Railway Bill [Lords]—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 218

Weston-super-Mare Grand Pier Bill [Lords]—Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time

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London and South-Western Railway Bill [Lords]—Reported, with Amendments ; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed	218
Rochdale Canal Bill [Lords]—Reported, with an Amendment ; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed	218
Workington Corporation Bill [Lords]—Reported, with Amendments ; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed	218

PETITIONS.

Board of Education Bill —Petition from Huddersfield, for alteration ; to lie upon the Table... ..	218
OUGHTON, MATILDA —Petition of Matilda Oughton, for redress of grievances ; to lie upon the Table	218
POOR LAW AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1845 —Petitions for alteration of Law,—From Montieith, Duffus, and Kirkwall and St. Ola ; to lie upon the Table... ..	218

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

NAVAL SAVINGS BANKS —Account [presented 24th July] to be printed. (No. 295.)	219
BOARD OF TRADE (LABOUR DEPARTMENT) (PROVISION FOR OLD AGE ABROAD) —Copy presented, of Report on Provision for Old Age by Government action in certain European countries [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	219
ARMY (MILITARY PRISONS) —Copy presented,—of Report on the Discipline and Management of Military Prisons, 1898 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	219
TRADE REPORTS (MISCELLANEOUS SERIES) —Copy presented,—of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Miscellaneous Series, No. 508 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	219
BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES (ENGLAND) —Copy presented,—of Sixty-first Annual Report of the Registrar-General, 1898 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	219
LAND LAW (IRELAND) ACT, 1887 (EVICTION NOTICES) —Copy presented,—of Return of Eviction Notices filed during the quarter ended 30th June, 1899 [by Command] : to lie upon the Table	220
QUEEN'S COLLEGE (BELFAST) —Copy presented,—of Annual Report of the President for the Session, 1898-9 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	220
SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC —Copy presented,—of Further Correspondence relating to proposed Political Reforms in the South African Republic [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	220

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POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS (REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE)—Return ordered,—of Revenue and Expenditure of the Post Office for each year from 1869–70 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 329, of Session 1898), and an Estimate for the same for the year ended the 31st day of March 1899, in the following form :—

Year.	Revenue.				Expenditure.								Total expenditure.	Percentage of total Expenditure to total Revenue.	Net Revenue.	Net Revenue after deducting Columns 5, 6, and 7.	Interest on stock created for purchase of telegraphs.
	Telegraph receipts.	Extra receipts.	Estimated value of services to other Departments.	Total.	Purchase.	Sites and Buildings.	Erection.	Telegraph extension.	Superannuations and other non-effective charges.	Salaries, wages, &c.	Percentage of salaries, wages, &c., to total Revenue.	Maintenance of telegraph system.	Percentage of maintenance of telegraph system to total Revenue.	Under Telegraph Vote.	Other Expenditure.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
—(Mr. Hanbury)	220

POST OFFICE (REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE)—Return ordered, of Revenue and Expenditure of the Post Office for each year from 1869–70 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 330, of Session 1898), and an Estimate of the same for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1899, in the following form :—

Year.	Revenue.				Expenditure.								Total Expenditure.	Percentage of total Expenditure to total Revenue.	Net Revenue.	Net Revenue, after deducting columns 5 and 6.
	Postal receipts.	Extra receipts.	Estimated value of services to other Departments.	Total.	Purchase.	Sites and Buildings.	Erection.	Superannuations and other non-effective charges.	Salaries, wages, &c.	Percentage of salaries, &c., due to total Revenue.	Conveyance of mails.	Percentage of conveyance of mails to total Revenue.	Packet service.	Under Post Office Vote.	Other Expenditure.	
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—(Mr. Hanbury)	221

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Question again proposed.

DISCUSSION :—

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<i>Sir F. S. Powell (Wigan)</i>	262		
<i>Mr. Brynmor Jones (Swansea District)</i>	262		

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

Naval Works Bill—[SECOND READING.]—Order for Second Reading read.Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."—(*Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth (Lancashire, Clitheroe)</i>	280	<i>Mr. Austen Chamberlain</i>	287
<i>Mr. Austen Chamberlain (Worcestershire, E.)</i>	280	<i>Sir John Colomb (Great Yarmouth)</i>	287
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		<i>Mr. Wylie (Dumbartonshire)</i>	302
		<i>Mr. Lloyd-George (Carnarvonshire)</i>	302

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

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Telegraphs (Telephonic Communication, &c.) Bill—As amended [by the Standing Committee], further considered.

Another Amendment made.

Another Amendment proposed—

“ In page 2, line 24, after the word ‘not,’ to insert the words, ‘within that area.’ ”—(*Mr. Hanbury.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Captain Sinclair (Forfar-shire)</i>	303	<i>Mr. Buchanan (Aberdeenshire, E.)</i>	304
<i>The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Hanbury, Preston)</i>	303	<i>Mr. Caldwell (Lanark, Mid)</i> ...	304
		<i>Mr. Hanbury</i>	304

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 151 ; Noes, 27. (Division List, No. 297.)

Amendment proposed—

“ In page 2, lines 29 and 30, to leave out the words, ‘or fall below the minimum rates.’ ”—(*Mr. Faithfull Begg.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Colville (Lanark, N.E.)</i>	307	<i>Mr. Labouchere (Northampton)</i> ...	308
<i>Mr. Griffith-Boscawen (Kent, Tunbridge)</i>	307	<i>Mr. Hanbury</i>	308
<i>Sir J. Joicey (Durham, Chester-le-Street)</i>	307		

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment suggested by Mr. Hanbury agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

“ In page 2, line 40, after the words last inserted, to insert the words, ‘provided that no such licence shall extend beyond the year one thousand nine hundred and eleven.’ ”—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Cohen (Islington, E.)</i> ...	310	<i>Mr. Hedderwick (Wick Burghs)</i> ...	319
<i>Mr. Provand (Glasgow, Blackfriars)</i>	311	<i>Mr. Faithfull Begg (Glasgow, St. Rollox)</i>	320
<i>Mr. Colville</i>	312	<i>Mr. Lloyd - George (Carnarvon Boroughs)</i>	322
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<i>Captain Sinclair</i>	314	<i>Mr. T. P. O'Connor (Liverpool, Scotland)</i>	325
<i>Mr. Hanbury</i>	314	<i>Mr. Griffith-Boscawen</i>	328
<i>Sir J. Joicey</i>	316	<i>Mr. Moulton (Cornwall, Launceston)</i>	328
<i>Sir J. T. Woodhouse (Huddersfield)</i>	317		

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 62 ; Noes, 146. (Division List, No. 298.)

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Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 40, to leave out the words from the word 'but,' to the end of sub-section (1), of Clause 3, in order to insert the words, 'subject as aforesaid on the terms and conditions specified in the agreement (including any provisions thereof for determination on breach of covenant, unless varied by any subsequent agreement with the local authority.'"—(*Mr. Hanbury.*)

Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill," put, and negatived.

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, to leave out the words from the word "conditions," to the end of the proposed Amendment, in order to add the words, "that shall be agreed upon between the existing company and the local authority."—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out to the word 'unless,' stand part of the proposed Amendment."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Hanbury</i>	336	<i>Mr. Moulton</i>	336
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Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 135 ; Noes, 45. (Division List, No. 299.)

Proposed Amendment amended, by leaving out the word "unless," and inserting the words, "except so far as they may be."—(*Sir James Woodhouse.*)

Words, as amended, inserted.

Another Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 2, after the words last inserted, to insert the words '(2) Where an existing company is at the passing of this Act under a licence from the Postmaster-General supplying public telephonic communication in any exchange area, a licence to provide a system of public telephonic communication within the same area, or any part thereof, shall not be granted by the Postmaster-General to any person or body other than the council of a borough or urban district, unless it is shown to the satisfaction of the Postmaster-General that the application for the licence is approved by the council of every borough or urban district, any part of which is situate within the area specified in the application.'"—(*Mr. Hanbury.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Buchanan</i>	...	...	340	<i>Mr. Faithfull Begg</i>	...	...	340
<i>Mr. Hanbury</i>	...	...	340	<i>Mr. Moulton</i>	...	...	340
<i>Sir J. Joicey</i>	...	...	340	<i>Sir J. T. Woodhouse</i>	...	...	341

Amendment amended by leaving out the word "every," and inserting the word "each"; by leaving out the words "any part of," and inserting the word "within"; and by leaving out from the word "which," to the end, and inserting the words, "it is proposed by the application to establish a telephonic exchange."—(*Sir James Woodhouse.*)

Question put, "That the words, as amended, be there inserted."

The House divided :—Ayes, 138 ; Noes, 27. (Division List, No. 300.)

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Amendment proposed—

“In page 3, line 3, to leave out Sub-section (2) of Clause 3.”—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out to the word ‘without,’ in line 3, stand part of the Bill.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Hanbury</i>	344	<i>Sir J. Joicey</i>	344
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Question put, and agreed to.

Other Amendments made.

Another Amendment proposed—

“In page 3, line 7, after the word ‘exchange,’ to insert the words, ‘Provided always that such consent shall not be withheld unless, within two years from the date of the passing of this Act, an effective exchange shall have been established within such area by the Postmaster-General, or by a local authority, or by a new company acting under a licence from the Postmaster-General.’”—(*Mr. Faithfull Begg.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Hanbury</i>	346	<i>Captain Sinclair</i>	346
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Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 3, line 8, to leave out the words of Sub-section 3 of clause 3.”—(*Captain Sinclair.*)

Question proposed, “That the word ‘Where’ stand part of the Bill.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Buchanan</i>	...	...	347	<i>Mr. Hanbury</i>	...	...	...	350
<i>Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.)</i>	...	...	348	<i>Mr. Moulton</i>	...	...	...	350
<i>Mr. Moulton</i>	...	...	349					

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 108 ; Noes, 38. (Division List, No. 301.)

Amendment proposed—

“In page 3, line 8, to leave out the words, ‘a local authority or.’”—(*Dr. Clark.*)

Question proposed, “That the words ‘a local authority or’ stand part of the Bill.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Hanbury</i>	...	...	351	<i>Mr. Colville</i>	...	...	...	353
<i>Mr. Labouchere</i>	...	...	352	<i>Mr. T. P. O'Connor</i>	...	...	...	354
<i>Mr. Dillon...</i>	...	...	352					

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 103 ; Noes, 33. (Division List, No. 302.)

Other Amendments made.

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Another Amendment proposed—

“In page 3, line 19, to leave out the words from the word ‘exceed’ to the end of paragraph (c), and insert the words ‘the maximum rates and (where the company are empowered to lay underground wires) shall not fall below the minimum rates authorised in that behalf by the Postmaster-General within the area specified in the new licences.’—(*Mr. Hanbury.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill.”

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the Debate be now adjourned.”
—(*Mr. T. P. O'Connor.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir J. Joicey</i>	...	...	356	<i>The First Lord of the Treasury</i>			
				<i>(Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)</i>	...	...	356

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 27 ; Noes, 108. (Division List, No. 303.)

Original Question again proposed.

DISCUSSION :

<i>Mr. Provand</i>	357	<i>Mr. Hanbury</i>	357
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Question put, and negatived.

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir J. T. Woodhouse</i>	...	358	<i>Mr. Moulton</i>	...	...	...	358
<i>Mr. Hanbury</i>	...	358	<i>Mr. Colville</i>	...	...	...	358, 359

Proposed Amendment amended, by inserting after the word “empowered” the words, “by agreement with the local authority.”

Words, as amended, inserted.

Another Amendment made.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 3, line 24, to leave out the words from the word ‘period’ to the word ‘but’ in line 25, in order to insert the words, ‘specified in the new licence of the local authority or new company for the duration of such new licence.’—(*Mr. Hanbury.*)

Question, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill,” put, and negatived.

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Moulton</i>	360	<i>Mr. Hanbury</i>	360
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Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 101 ; Noes, 25. (Division List, No. 304.)

Other Amendments made.

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Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 27, at end, to add—' (5) If the licence of an existing company is, under the provisions of this section, extended in respect of any exchange area for a period of not less than eight years beyond the term existing at the passing of this Act, the company shall, at the request of any other licensee of the Postmaster-General providing public telephonic communication in the whole or any part of that exchange area, and under such circumstances and on such terms and conditions as may, within six months from the passing of this Act, be prescribed by an order of the Postmaster-General, made with the approval of the Treasury, afford all proper facilities for the transmission of telephonic messages between persons using the system of the company (either in the whole or in part of the exchange area, as the Postmaster-General may prescribe) and persons using the system of such other licensee, provided that the licensee so requiring inter-communication shall in any such case afford similar facilities. (6) For the purposes of this section the expression "exchange area" means an exchange area as defined by any agreement made by an existing company with the Postmaster-General before the passing of this Act.'"—(*Mr. Hanbury.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Buchanan</i>	...	...	361	<i>Sir J. Joicey</i>	...	...	...	362
<i>Mr. Hanbury</i>	...	...	361					

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 27, after the word 'force' to insert the words,—'It shall be a condition of every licence granted to a local authority or to a new company after the passing of this Act, that such local authority or such new company shall, within two years from the date of the granting of such licence, open and maintain an effective exchange within the area included in such licence, otherwise the said licence shall be cancelled and shall absolutely cease and determine, and no compensation shall be payable to such local authority or such new company in respect of such cancellation.'"—(*Mr. Faithfull Begg.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Hanbury</i>	363	<i>Mr. Faithfull Begg</i>	363
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Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Bill to be read the third time To-morrow.

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Buchanan</i>	363	<i>Mr. Hanbury</i>	363
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Gordon Memorial College at Khartoum Bill [Lords]—Considered in Committee, and reported, without Amendment; Bill read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

Isle of Man (Customs) Bill—Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.

<i>Mr. Caldwell (Lanark, Mid)</i>	363
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Bill reported, without Amendment; read the third time, and passed.

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Telegraph (Channel Islands) Bill—[SECOND READING.]—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Caldwell</i>	364	<i>Mr. Hanbury</i>	364
<i>The First Lord of the Treasury</i> (<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.</i>)	364		

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Bill [Lords]—Read a second time, and committed for To-morrow 364

Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 17th day of this instant July, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

House adjourned at thirty minutes after Two of the clock.

COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 26TH JULY 1899.

*PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.***Great Southern and Western and Waterford, Limerick, and Western Railway Companies Amalgamation Bill; Great Southern and Western Railway Bill; Waterford and Central Ireland Railway Bill**—Special Report from the Select Committee brought up, and read.

The Committee reported with respect to the Great Southern and Western Railway Bill and the Waterford and Central Ireland Railway Bill (Paragraph 10), "That they recommend that, notwithstanding the readiness of the promoters to proceed with the Great Southern and Western Railway Bill, and so fulfil their pledge, it is advisable, having regard to the period of the session which has been reached, that the Order for the committal of that Bill, and the Instruction relating thereto, be discharged. The Waterford and Central Ireland Railway Bill is a Bill for extension of time only, but as it seems impossible that the Bill should pass through all its stages in the present session, the Committee recommend that the Order for the Committal of that Bill also be discharged, and that both Bills be withdrawn." Special Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. Minutes of Proceedings to be printed. (No. 290.) 365

Great Southern and Western Railway Bill and Waterford and Central Ireland Railway Bill—Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Great Southern and Western Railway Bill and the Waterford and Central Ireland Railway Bill be withdrawn."—(*Mr. James William Lowther.*)

Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.) 366

Debate adjourned until To-morrow.

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Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill ; Derby Corporation Tramways, etc., Bill ; London United Tramways Bill ; Redditch Gas Bill ; Stockport Corporation Bill —Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to	366
Cromer Protection Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered ; to be read the third time	366
Great Eastern Railway (General Powers) Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered ; Amendments made ; Bill to be read the third time	366
Great Yarmouth Water Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered ; a clause added ; Bill to be read the third time	366
North-Eastern Railway Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered ; to be read the third time	366
Oldham Corporation Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered ; Amendments made ; Bill to be read the third time	366
olverhampton Tramways Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered ; to be read the third time	366
Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords] ; Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 3) Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered ; to be read the third time To-morrow	366

PETITIONS.

OUT-DOOR RELIEF (FRIENDLY SOCIETIES) ACT, 1894 —Petition from Paisley, for extension to Scotland ; to lie upon the Table	367
Sale of Intoxicating Liquors on Sunday Bill —Petition from Queen's Park, Chelsea, in favour ; to lie upon the Table	367
SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN —Petition from Burnley, for alteration of law ; to lie upon the Table	367

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANKS —Return presented relative thereto [ordered, 20th July ; <i>Sir John William Maclure</i>] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed	367
FACTORY AND WORKSHOP (DANGEROUS TRADES) COMMITTEE —Copy presented, of Fourth Interim Report of the Departmental Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department to inquire into and report upon certain miscellaneous dangerous trades, Supplementary Report and Evidence on the manufacture and use of Grindstones, and on File Cutting [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	367
FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS (DIFFERENT MEAL HOURS) (SPINNING OF ARTIFICIAL SILK) —Copy presented, of Order made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, dated 20th July 1899, extending to Factories or Workshops in which the Spinning of Artificial Silk is carried on the special exceptions with regard to Meal Hours contained in Section 52 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878 [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table	367

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LOCAL TAXATION LICENCES, 1898-9—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 21st July; <i>Mr. T. W. Russell</i>]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 298.)	367
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PUBLIC BUSINESS.

Inebriates Act (1898) Amendment Bill—Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate [21st June], "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Question again proposed.

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid)</i> ...	...	368	<i>Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.)</i> ...	369
<i>Mr. Jesse Collings (Birmingham, Bordesley)</i>...	...	369	<i>The Lord Advocate (Mr. A. G. Murray, Buteshire)</i> ...	370
<i>Mr. Warner (Staffordshire, Lichfield)</i> ...	...	369		

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

Royal Niger Company Bill—Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 23, to leave out the words, 'eight hundred and sixty-five,' and insert the words 'four hundred' (*Mr. Dillon*) instead thereof."

Question proposed, "That the words 'eight hundred and sixty-five' stand part of the clause."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Labouchere (Northampton)</i> ...	...	378	<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar)</i> ...	387
<i>The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir M. Hicks-Beach, Bristol, W.)</i> ...	...	381	<i>Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis)</i> ...	389
<i>Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.)</i> ...	...	383	<i>Dr. Clark (Caithness)</i> ...	391
<i>Mr. Labouchere</i> ...	...	384	<i>Mr. W. F. Lawrence (Liverpool, Abercromby)</i> ...	392
<i>Sir M. Hicks-Beach</i> ...	...	385	<i>Mr. Thomas Bayley (Derbyshire, Chesterfield)</i> ...	394

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 143 ; Noes, 57. (Division List, No. 305.)

Question proposed, "That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Dillon</i>...	...	397	<i>Mr. Warner (Staffordshire, Lichfield)</i> ...	402
<i>Sir M. Hicks-Beach</i> ...	...	398	<i>Mr. T. P. O'Connor (Liverpool, Scotland)</i> ...	402
<i>Dr. Clark</i> ...	...	400		
<i>Mr. Labouchere</i> ...	...	401		

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 171 ; Noes, 78. (Division List, No. 306.)

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Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, line 16, after the word ‘Act,’ to insert the words, ‘and in every financial year thereafter.’”—(*Mr. Buchanan.*) /

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

Sir M. Hicks-Beach 407

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clause 3 :—

Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, lines 27 and 28, to leave out the words ‘administered by the company at the passing of this Act,’ and insert the words, ‘of Northern Nigeria, Southern Nigeria, and Lagos.’”—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.”

Sir M. Hicks-Beach 408

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, line 29, to leave out from the word ‘Exchequer’ to end of clause.”—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.”

DISCUSSION :—

Sir M. Hicks-Beach ... 409 *Mr. Dillon* 410

Question put, and agreed to.

Question proposed, “That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill.”

DISCUSSION :—

Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucester, Forest of Dean)... .. 410 *Sir M. Hicks-Beach* 410

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 4 agreed to.

A clause (lands and mineral rights of the company to be transferred to the Crown)—(*Mr. Dillon.*) Brought up and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed: “That the clause be read a second time.”

DISCUSSION :

<i>Sir M. Hicks-Beach</i>	... 413	<i>Mr. T. P. O'Connor</i>	... .. 416
<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i>	... 414	<i>Mr. Labouchere</i>...	... .. 416
<i>Mr. T. P. O'Connor</i>	... 415	<i>Dr. Clark</i> ...	... .. 417
<i>Sir M. Hicks-Beach</i>	... 416	<i>Mr. McKenna (Monmouth, N.)</i>	... .. 418

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 89 ; Noes, 160. (Division List, No. 307.)

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Amendment proposed—

“In the Preamble, page 1, line 5, after ‘territories,’ to insert, ‘And whereas there was also in the said charter a clause prohibiting the Royal Niger Company from establishing any monopoly of trade in the regions committed to its charge.’”—(*Mr. J. Dillon.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir M. Hicks-Beach</i> ...	422	<i>Mr. Dillon</i>	425
<i>Sir Charles Dilke</i> ...	422	<i>Mr. McKenna</i>	425
<i>Mr. T. P. O'Connor</i> ...	423	<i>Mr. T. P. O'Connor</i>	425
<i>Sir M. Hicks-Beach</i> ...	423	<i>Sir M. Hicks-Beach</i>	425
<i>Mr. Gibson Bowles</i>	423	<i>Mr. T. P. O'Connor</i>	426
<i>Mr. Dillon</i>	424	<i>Sir Charles Dilke</i>	426
<i>Mr. Samuel Evans (Glamorgan, Mid)</i>	424	<i>Mr. Labouchere</i>	426
<i>Mr. Gibson Bowles</i>	424	<i>Mr. Dillon</i>	426

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Preamble agreed to.

Bill reported, without Amendment; to be read the third time To-morrow.

Improvement of Land Bill—As amended (by the Standing Committee), considered.

Motion made, and Question proposed, “That the Bill be now read the third time.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid)</i>	426	<i>The President of the Board of Agriculture (Mr. Long, Liverpool, West Derby)</i>	426
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Motion made, and Question put, “That the Debate be now adjourned.”—(*Mr. Courtenay Warner.*)

The House divided :—Ayes, 48 ; Noes, 125. (Division List, No. 308.)

Original Question again proposed.

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston)</i>	429	<i>The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)</i>	432
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Amendment proposed—

“To leave out the words ‘now read the third time,’ and insert the words ‘re-committed in respect of the Amendments now on the Notice Paper.’”—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)

Question, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question,” put, and negatived.

Words added.

Bill recommitted in respect of the Amendments now on the Notice Paper for To-morrow.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—Question, Mr. Buchanan (Aberdeenshire, E.); Answer, The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)	432
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ADJOURNMENT—Motion made, and Question, “That this House do now
adjourn”—(*Mr. Balfour*); put, and agreed to.

House adjourned at five minutes before Seven of the clock.

LORDS: THURSDAY, 27TH JULY 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway Bill; Brompton and Piccadilly Circus Railway Bill —Committee to meet To-morrow	433
Lea Bridge District Gas Bill [Lords]; Sunderland Corporation Bill [Lords]—Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to	433
Menstone Water Bill —Read the third time, and passed	433
London County Council (Money) Bill; London County Council (General Powers) Bill; Bootle Corporation Bill —Read the third time, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons ...	433
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12) Bill; Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill; Derby Corporation Tramways, &c., Bill; London United Tramways Bill; Redditch Gas Bill; Stockport Corpora- tion Bill —Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to	433
Loughborough Corporation Bill [Lords]; Mersey Docks and Harbour Board (Finance) Bill [Lords]; Port Talbot Railway and Docks Bill [Lords]; Whitehaven Corporation Bill [Lords]— Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments; the said Amendments considered and agreed to	433
London and North-Western Railway (Additional Powers) Bill — Returned from the Commons with the Amendments made by the Lords agreed to, with Amendments, and a consequential Amendment to the Bill	434
Burgh Police (Scotland) Provisional Order Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 20) Bill —House to be in Committee To-morrow	434
Local Government Provisional Order (No. 14) Bill —Read the third time (according to Order), with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons	434
Local Government Provisional Order (No. 15) Bill —Read the third time (according to Order), and passed	434

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RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP (DANGEROUS TRADES) —Fourth Interim Report of the Departmental Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department to inquire into and report upon certain miscellaneous dangerous trades. Supplementary report and evidence on the manufacture and use of grindstones and on file-cutting	434
BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY —Accounts and estimates for the years 1896–1900	434
INDIA (CURRENCY) —Despatch of the Secretary of State for India in Council to the Governor-General of India in Council, dated the 25th of July, 1899, respecting the report of the Committee appointed to inquire into the Indian currency	434
AFRICA, No. 7 (1899) —Correspondence respecting the African Liquor Traffic Convention signed at Brussels 8th June, 1899	434
SCIENCE AND ART DEPARTMENT —Calendar, history, and general summary of regulations for the year 1900, with tables. Presented [by Command]; and ordered to lie on the Table	435
FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS (DIFFERENT MEAL HOURS) (SPINNING OF ARTIFICIAL SILK) —Order made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, dated 20th July, 1899, extending to factories or workshops in which the spinning of artificial silk is carried on, the special exceptions with regard to meal hours contained in Section 52 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878. Laid before the House [pursuant to Act], and ordered to lie on the Table	435

PETITIONS.

Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Bill —Petitions in favour of ; of the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of Galashiels ; the Commissioners of Tillicoultry ; the Edinburgh Merchants' Association ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table	435
Petitions for amendment of ; of the Royal Parliamentary and Police Burghs of Scotland ; the Magistrates and Town Council of Dunfermline ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table	435
Petition of Colonel David Milne Home for return of two documents produced in evidence before the Committee of privileges on the Marchmont Peerage claim in 1842 ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table ...	435
Gordon Memorial College at Khartoum Bill [Lords]—Returned from the Commons, agreed to	435
Oysters Bill [Lords]—House to be in Committee on Monday next	435
Tithe Rent-Charge (Rates) Bill — House in Committee (according to Order)	435
DISCUSSION:—	
<i>Lord Harris</i>	436
<i>The Earl of Selborne</i>	437

Clauses 1, 2, 3, and 4 agreed to ; Bill reported without Amendment ; Standing Committee negatived ; and Bill to be read the third time To-morrow.

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Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Bill—SECOND READING—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.Moved, "That the Bill be now read a second time."—(*The Earl of Denbigh*.)

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read a second time accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow.

Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Bill—SECOND READING—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.Moved, "That the Bill be now read a second time."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh*.)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Lord Tweedmouth</i>	445	<i>The Marquess of Lothian</i> ...	468
<i>Lord Balfour of Burleigh</i> ...	447	<i>Lord Balfour of Burleigh</i> ...	468
<i>The Chairman of Committees</i>		<i>The Earl of Kimberley</i> ...	469
(<i>The Earl of Morley</i>) ...	453	<i>The Lord Chancellor (The Earl of</i>	
<i>The Earl of Camperdown</i> ...	465	<i>Halsbury)</i>	469

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read the second time accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

Isle of Man (Customs) Bill—Brought from the Commons, and read the first time ; and to be printed ; and to be read the second time on Monday next.
—(*The Marquess of Salisbury*.) (No. 184.) 469

Sale of Food and Drugs Bill—Brought from the Commons ; read the first time ; to be printed ; and to be read the second time on Monday next (*The Lord Privy Seal* [V. Cross]). (No. 183.) 469

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OUTRAGES BY SOLDIERS IN INDIA.

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<i>for India (The Earl of</i>		(<i>The Marquess of Lansdowne</i>)	478
<i>Onslow</i>)	477		

House adjourned at half-past Seven of the clock.

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COMMONS: THURSDAY, 27TH JULY 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Great Northern and Strand Railway Bill ; Great Western and Great Central Railway Companies Bill ; London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway (Various Powers) Bill ; South-Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Companies (New Lines) Bill ; Stockport Corporation Water Bill ; Walker and Wallsend Union Gas (Electric Lighting) Bill. —Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to	480
Aberdeen Joint Passenger Station Bill [Lords]—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments	480
Caledonian Railway (General Powers) Bill [Lords]—(Queen's Consent signified),—read the third time, and passed, with Amendments	480
Great Northern Railway Bill [Lords]—(Queen's Consent signified),—read the third time, and passed, with Amendment	480
Leigh-on-Sea Urban District Council Bill [Lords]; Yeadon and Guisely Gas Bill [Lords]—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments	480
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Great Southern and Western Railway Bill and Waterford and Central Ireland Railway Bill —Order read for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question [26th July], "That the Great Southern and Western Railway Bill and the Waterford and Central Ireland Railway Bill be withdrawn."—(<i>Mr. James William Lowther.</i>)	
Question again proposed.	
DISCUSSION :—	
<i>The Chairman of Committees</i> (<i>Mr. J. W. Lowther, Cumberland, Penrith</i>)	481
<i>Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.)</i>	482
<i>Sir Penrose Fitzgerald (Cambridge)</i>	484
<i>Mr. Carson (Dublin University)</i>	486
<i>Mr. J. W. Lowther</i>	487
Question put, and agreed to.	
Ordered, That the Great Southern and Western Railway Bill and the Waterford and Central Ireland Railway Bill be withdrawn.	
Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords]; Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 3) Bill [Lords]—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments	487

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Board of Education Bill —Petition from Halifax, for alteration ; to lie upon the Table	488
BOROUGH FUNDS ACT, 1872 —Petition from Penzance, for alteration of law ; to lie upon the Table	488
GROUND RENTS (TAXATION BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES) —Petition from Whickham, in favour ; to lie upon the Table	488

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY —Copy presented,—of Accounts and Estimates for the years 1896-1900 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table ...	488
EDUCATION (SCIENCE AND ART DEPARTMENT) —Copy presented,—of Calendar, History, and General Summary of Regulations for the year 1900 (with Tables) [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	488
FIRE BRIGADES —Return presented,—relative thereto [ordered 8th March ; <i>Mr. Pym</i>] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 299)	488
LOCAL TAXATION (ENGLAND) ACCOUNT, 1898-9 —Return presented,—relative thereto [ordered 21st July ; <i>Mr. T. W. Russell</i>] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 301)	488
LOCAL TAXATION RETURNS (ENGLAND) —Copy presented,—of Part II. (Accounts of County Councils and Lunatic Asylums) ; Part III. (Municipal Borough Accounts, &c.) ; Part IV. (Accounts of Metropolitan Vestries, District Boards, &c.) ; Part V. (Accounts of Commissioners of Sewers, &c.) ; Part VI. (Accounts of Highway Authorities in Rural Districts) ; and Part VII. (Summary) [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 302.)	488
EAST INDIA CURRENCY —Copy presented,—of Despatch of the Secretary of State for India in Council to the Governor-General of India in Council, dated the 25th July, 1899, respecting the Report of the Committee appointed to inquire into the Indian Currency [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	488
AFRICA (No. 7, 1899) —Copy presented,—of Correspondence respecting the African Liquor Traffic Convention, Signed at Brussels, 8th June 1889 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	489
CIVIL SERVICES, 1899-1900, SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE (IMPERIAL INSTITUTE BUILDINGS) —Estimate presented,—of the additional Amount required in the year ending the 31st March, 1900, for expenditure in respect of sundry public buildings in Great Britain, with copy of Treasury Minute explanatory of the arrangements for purchase and utilisation of the Imperial Institute Buildings [by Command] ; referred to the Committee of Supply, and to be printed. (No. 300.)	489
IMPERIAL INSTITUTE (INDIAN SECTION) —Address for “Portions of the Annual Report of the Indian Section of the Imperial Institute for the year ending the 31st day of March, 1899, and of the preceding two years, embodying the more important details of the working of the section, and the results obtained in the scientific investigations of selected natural products from India carried on at the Imperial Institute.”—(<i>Sir Mancherjee Bhownagree.</i>) ...	489

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BREWERS' CASKS —Return ordered, "of all the correspondence which has passed between the Board of Trade and the local authorities in England and Wales, relating to the testing and stamping of brewers' casks used as measures in trade, under the Weights and Measures Act, 1878, from and including the first day of January, 1894, up to the present time."—(<i>Mr. Broadhurst</i>)	489
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INDIAN JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION —Question, Sir William Wedderburn (Banffshire); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Lord G. Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing)	492
CHIEF JUSTICESHIP OF MADRAS —Question, Sir William Wedderburn (Banffshire); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Lord G. Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing)	493
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Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.)</i> ...	521	<i>Dr. Clark (Caithness)</i> ...	536
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<i>Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.)</i> ...	532		

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 181 ; Noes, 81. (Division List, No. 309.)

Naval Works Bill—Considered in Committee. (Mr. GRANT LAWSON, York, N.R., Thirsk, in the Chair.)

Clause 1 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 8, to leave out the word 'three,' and insert the word 'two.'"—(*Mr. Edmund Robertson.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'three' stand part of the clause."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The Civil Lord of the Admiralty (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.)</i>	543	<i>Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth (Lancashire, Clitheroe)</i> ...	544
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The Committee divided :—Ayes, 168 ; Noes, 95. (Division List, No. 310.)

Question proposed, "That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Lloyd-George (Carnarvon Boroughs)</i> ...	547	<i>Sir Edward Gourley (Sunderland)</i>	554
<i>Sir J. Colomb (Great Yarmouth)</i> ...	548	<i>Mr. H. J. Wilson (Yorkshire, W. R., Holmfirth)</i> ...	555
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<i>Mr. Labouchere (Northampton)</i> ...	551	<i>Mr. Maddison (Sheffield, Brightside)</i> ...	557
<i>Mr. Edmund Robertson (Dundee)</i> ...	554	<i>Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.)</i> ...	559

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 159 ; Noes, 48. (Division List, No. 311.)

Clause 2, agreed to.

Clause 3 :—

Amendment proposed :—

"In Schedule, page 2, line 16, to leave out '120,000,' in order to insert '100,000.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

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Mr. Austen Chamberlain 563

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In Schedule, page 2, to leave out lines 42 to 45 inclusive."—(*Mr. Davitt.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Schedule."

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Austen Chamberlain ... 563 *Sir John Colomb* 564
Mr. Maddison 564

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In Schedule, page 2, line 45, to leave out '205,000,' in order to insert '105,000.'"—(*Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth.*)

Question proposed, "That '205,000,' stand part of the Schedule."

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Austen Chamberlain ... 564 *Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth* ... 565
Sir Charles Dilke 565 *Mr. Goschen* 565

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In Schedule, page 2, to leave out lines 46, 47, and 48."—(*Mr. Dillon.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of schedule."

DISCUSSION :—

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Question put, and agreed to.

Bill reported without Amendment; to be read the third time upon Monday next.

Military Works Bill—Considered in Committee.

[*Mr. J. W. LOWTHER* (Cumberland, Penrith), in the Chair.]

Clause 1 :—

DISCUSSION :—

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Amendment proposed—

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Question proposed, "That the word 'four' stand part of the clause."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir Charles Dilke</i>	572	<i>Mr. Wyndham</i>	573
<i>Mr. Buchanan</i> (<i>Aberdeen-shire, E.</i>)... ..	572		

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 14, at the end of the Clause, to add the words, 'provided that out of the above sum not less than one hundred thousand pounds be expended upon barracks in and near Edinburgh.'"—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Pirie</i> (<i>Aberdeen, N.</i>)	574	<i>Mr. Buchanan</i>	578
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		<i>Dr. Clark</i> (<i>Caithness</i>)	580

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 47 ; Noes, 124. (Division List, No. 312.)

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 14, after 'issued,' to insert, 'But no expenditure shall be incurred under this Act abroad until twenty-one days after a return of such expenditure has been laid on the Table stating the place where such expenditure is to be made.'"—(*Mr. Warner.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Wyndham</i>	584	<i>Captain Sinclair</i>	586
<i>Sir Charles Dilke</i>	584	<i>Mr. Warner</i>	586
<i>Sir J. Colomb</i>	585	<i>Mr. Buchanan</i>	586

Question put, and negatived.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Schedule :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 9, to leave out the words—

£ £ £
 '1. Defence works..... 1,000,000 | 1,120,000 | 2,120,000.'"—(*Captain Sinclair.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Schedule."

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DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir J. Colomb</i>	588	<i>Sir Charles Dilke</i>	590
<i>Sir Charles Dilke</i>	589	<i>Sir John Colomb</i>	590
<i>Commander Bethell</i> (York, <i>E.R., Holderness</i>)	590	<i>Mr. Buchanan</i>	590
		<i>Mr. Wyndham</i>	591

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 143 ; Noes, 48. (Division List, No. 313.)

Amendment proposed—

“ In page 2, line 10, after the word ‘ barracks,’ to insert the words, ‘ including recreation rooms for abstainers, and sub-division of sleeping rooms in certain barracks, and.’ ”—(*Sir J. Fergusson.*)

Question proposed, “ That those words be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Wyndham</i>	597	<i>Mr. Maddison</i> (<i>Sheffield, Bright-</i> <i>side</i>)	600
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<i>Colonel Blundell</i> (<i>Lancs.,</i> <i>Ince</i>)	600		

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 44 ; Noes, 103. (Division List, No. 314.)

SCHEDULE.

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Buchanan</i>	603	<i>Mr. Wyndham</i>	603
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Amendment proposed—

“ In line 1, after the word ‘ Infantry,’ to insert the word ‘ Cavalry.’ ”—(*Mr. Warner.*)

Question, “ That the word ‘ Cavalry ’ be there inserted,” put, and negatived.

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir J. Colomb</i>	605	<i>Mr. Wyndham</i>	605
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Schedule agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

“ In page 2, column 1, line 16, to leave out from ‘ including ’ to ‘ mobilisa-
tion ’ in line 17, both inclusive.”—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)

Question proposed, “ That the words proposed to be left out stand part
of the schedule.”

DISCUSSION—

<i>Mr. Wyndham</i>	605	<i>Mr. Pirie</i>	605
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Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

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Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 21, at end, to add, 'No building will be undertaken which cannot be completed within the £4,000,000 asked for under this Act.'"—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)

Question, "That those words be there inserted," put, and agreed to.

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir J. Colomb</i>	606	<i>Mr. Wyndham</i>	606
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Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Bill reported; as amended, to be considered upon Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 296.)

Improvement of Land (Re-Committed) Bill—Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.

Clause 1 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 8, to leave out the words 'an improvement of land,' and insert the words 'any of the improvements mentioned in section 9 of the principal Act, or in section 25 of the Settled Land Act, 1882'—(*Mr. Channing*)—instead thereof."

Question proposed, "That the words 'an improvement of land' stand part of the clause."

The President of the Board of Agriculture (Mr. Long, Liverpool, West Derby) 610

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 100 ; Noes, 21. (Division List, No. 315.)

New Clause :—

"The Board of Agriculture, before making an order on any application made to them under the principal Act or under this Act to sanction improvements, may by one of their officers hold an inquiry as to the provision of adequate and suitable cottages for the labouring population on the estate in respect of which the application is made, and if the officer holding such inquiry reports such provision to be defective, the Board may decline to make an order unless the landowner shall amend his application so as to include some improvement of the cottage accommodation on the estate."—(*Mr. Channing.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Long</i>	612	<i>Mr. Hazell (Leicester)</i>	613
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Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 21 ; Noes, 96. (Division List, No. 316.)

Bill reported, without Amendment.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

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Patriotic Fund Bill—[SECOND READING]—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. J. Parker Smith (Lanarkshire, Partick)</i>	<i>Mr. Wyndham</i>	615
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Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for Monday next.

Reserve Forces Bill—Read a second time, and committed for Monday next 615**Public Works (Loans) Bill**—[SECOND READING.]—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

<i>Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid)</i>	616
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Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for Monday next.

Metropolitan Police Bill—Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

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SUPPLY (21ST ALLOTTED DAY)—Considered in Committee.

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith), in the Chair.]]

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES, 1899-1900.

CLASS II.

1. Motion made, and Question proposed—

“That a sum, not exceeding £31,405, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, including a Grant in Aid of certain expenses connected with Emigration.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman</i>	686	<i>Mr. Mendl (Plymouth)</i> ...	760
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		<i>Mr. J. Chamberlain</i> ...	787

Motion made, and Question proposed—

“That item A (Salaries) be reduced by £100, in respect of the Salary of the Secretary of State.”—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. J. A. Pease (Northumberland, Tyneside)</i> ...	787	<i>Captain Sinclair (Forfarshire)</i> ...	789
<i>Mr. J. Chamberlain</i> ...	788	<i>Mr. J. Chamberlain</i> ...	789
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<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar)</i> ...	789	<i>Mr. J. Chamberlain</i> ...	790

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Question put, and negatived.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

CLASS I.

2. £209,705, to complete the sum for Rates on Government Property.

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Hazell (Leicester)</i> ...	791	<i>Mr. Caldwell (Lanark, Mid)</i> ...	792
<i>The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Han- bury, Preston)</i> ...	791	<i>Mr. Hanbury</i> ...	792

Vote agreed to.

[Mr. STUART-WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) in the Chair.]

CLASS II.

3. £6,900, to complete the sum for Privy Council Offices.

4. Motion made, and Question proposed—

“That a sum, not exceeding £27,594, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1900, for the salaries and expenses of the Charity Commission for England and Wales, including the Endowed Schools Department.”

Motion made, and Question proposed—

“That a sum, not exceeding £26,594, be granted for the said service.”—
(*Mr. Hazell.*)

Mr. Grant Lawson (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) ... 793

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

5. £28,405, to complete the sum for Civil Service Commission.

6. £39,407, to complete the sum for Exchequer and Audit Department.

7. £4,912, the complete the sum for Friendly Societies Registry.

8. £14,400, to complete the sum for Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues, &c., Office.

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Buchanan</i> ...	793	<i>Mr. Caldwell</i> ...	795
<i>Mr. Hanbury</i> ...	794	<i>Mr. Labouchere</i> ...	795
<i>Captain Sinclair</i> ...	795		

Vote agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next.

Mr. A. J. Balfour... 796

Committee report Progress ; to sit again upon Monday next.

In pursuance of the Order of the House of the 17th day of this instant July, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned accordingly at a quarter after One of the clock.

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Belfast Corporation Bill —Read the third time, with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons ...	797
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Moved, "That the Bill be now read a second time."—(<i>The Lord Ashbourne.</i>)	

DISCUSSION :—

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<i>Lord Plunket</i>	818	<i>The Lord Chancellor of Ireland (Lord Ashbourne)</i>	825
<i>The Earl of Arran</i>	820		

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read a second time accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow.

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Moved, "That the Order to go into Committee be discharged."—(*Lord Harris.*)

On Question, agreed to	829
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Isle of Man (Customs) Bill—[SECOND READING]—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Moved, "That this Bill be read the second time."—(*Viscount Cross.*)

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read the second time accordingly ; Committee negatived ; and Bill to be read the third time To-morrow... ..	829
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Sale of Food and Drugs Bill—[SECOND READING]—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read the second time."—(*Viscount Cross*.)

DISCUSSION :—

The Earl of Kimberley ... 835 *Viscount Cross* 836

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read the second time accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow.

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Moved, "That the Bill be now read the second time."—(*Viscount Cross*.)

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read the second time accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow 836

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QUESTION.

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MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS—That they have agreed to, Tithe Rent-Charge (Rates) Bill; Burgh Police (Scotland) Provisional Order Bill; Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Bill, without Amendment. Bexhill and Rotherfield Railway Bill, with an Amendment. Amendments to Humber Conservancy Bill [Lords]; Great Northern Railway Bill [Lords], without Amendment	858

PUBLIC BUSINESS.

Colonial Loans Bill—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

DISCUSSION :—

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman
(*Stirling Burghs*) ... 858
The Chancellor of the Ex-
chequer (Sir M. Hicks-
Beach, Bristol, W.) ... 859

Mr. Buchanan (Aberdeenshire, E.) 864
The Secretary of State for the
Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain,
Birmingham, W.) ... 867

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Amendment proposed—

“To leave out the word ‘now,’ and at the end of the question to add the words, ‘upon this day three months.’”—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)

Question proposed, “That the word ‘now’ stand part of the Question.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Captain Sinclair</i> (<i>Forfarshire</i>)	869	<i>Mr. Labouchere</i> (<i>Northampton</i>)	... 873
<i>Mr. Cohen</i> (<i>Islington, E.</i>)	... 871		

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 118 ; Noes, 66. (Division List, No. 317.)

Main Question again proposed.

The House divided :—Ayes, 124 ; Noes, 69. (Division List, No. 318.)

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

Military Works Bill—As amended, considered.

Amendment proposed—

“Restricting the item in the Schedule of ‘ranges, including accommodation for manœuvring and mobilisation,’ to the sums provided under the Military Works Act of 1897.”—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Buchanan</i> (<i>Aberdeen-shire, E.</i>)	... 879	<i>Mr. Buchanan</i>	... 881
<i>The Chancellor of the Exchequer</i> (<i>Sir M. Hicks-Beach, Bristol, W.</i>)	... 879		

Amendment agreed to.

Bill to be read the third time To-morrow.

PUBLIC WORKS LOANS [REMISSION OF DEBTS]—Considered in Committee.

Resolved, That it is expedient to authorise the remission of certain debts due to the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland from certain boards of guardians in Ireland, and from the Wicklow Harbour Commissioners, in pursuance of any Act of the present session relating to Public Works Loans. Resolution to be reported To-morrow ... 881

HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE, CHANCERY DIVISION (ADDITIONAL JUDGE).

Motion made, and question proposed—

“That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty, representing that the state of business in the High Court of Justice is such as to require the appointment of an additional Judge, and praying that Her Majesty will be graciously pleased to appoint a new Judge of the said High Court in the Chancery Division thereof, in pursuance of the eighteenth section of The Appellate Jurisdiction Act, 1876.”—(*Mr Balfour.*)

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DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir H. H. Fowler (Wolverhampton, E.)</i>	884	<i>Mr. Atherley - Jones (Durham, N.W.)</i>	903
<i>Mr. Sydney Gedge (Walsall)</i>	889	<i>Mr. Tomlinson (Preston)</i>	906
<i>Sir Edward Clarke (Plymouth)</i>	891	<i>Mr. Lawson Walton (Leeds, S.)</i> ...	906
<i>Mr. Broadhurst (Leicester)</i> ...	894	<i>The Solicitor-General (Sir R. B. Finlay, Inverness Burghs)</i> ...	909
<i>Mr. Richards (Finsbury, E)</i>	897	<i>Mr. Asquith (Fifeshire, E.)</i> ...	911
<i>Mr. Haldane (Haddington)</i>	899	<i>Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.)</i>	913
<i>Mr. Coghill (Stoke-on-Trent)</i>	901		
<i>Mr. Bainbridge (Lincolnshire, Gainsborough)</i>	902		

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 159 ; Noes, 28. (Division List, No. 319.)

Resolved, That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty, representing that the state of business in the High Court of Justice is such as to require the appointment of an additional judge, and praying that Her Majesty will be graciously pleased to appoint a new judge of the said High Court in the Chancery Division thereof, in pursuance of the eighteenth section of The Appellate Jurisdiction Act, 1876. To be presented by Privy Councillors and such Members as are of Her Majesty's Household.

Telegraphs (Telephonic Communication, Etc.) Bill—Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day three months.'"—(*Sir James Joicey.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now,' stand part of the Question."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Hedderwick (Wick Burghs)</i>	921	<i>Mr. W. F. Lawrence (Liverpool, Abercromby)</i>	931
<i>Sir Harry Bullard (Norwich)</i>	925	<i>Mr. Cawley (Lancashire, Prestwich)</i> ...	932
<i>Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.)</i> ...	926		
<i>Sir Charles Cameron (Glasgow, Bridgeton)</i>	927		

The House divided :—Ayes, 132 ; Noes, 29. (Division List, No. 320.)

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time and passed.

Metropolitan Police Bill—Read the third time, and passed... .. 933

Patriotic Fund Bill—Considered in Committee,

[*Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith)* in the Chair.]

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Lewis (Flint Boroughs)</i>	934	<i>The Under Secretary of State for War (Mr. Wyndham, Dover)</i>	934
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Bill reported without Amendment ; read the third time, and passed.

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Reserve Forces Bill—Considered in Committee, and reported, without Amendment; read the third time, and passed ... 934

Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Bill [Lords]—Considered in Committee.

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clauses 1, 2, 3, and 4 amended, and agreed to.

Clause 5 :—

Amendment proposed—

“In page 3, line 11, to leave out from ‘Act’ to end of clause.”—(*Mr. Trevelyan.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education (Sir John Gorst, Cambridge University)</i> ...	<i>Mr. Lewis (Flint Boroughs)</i> ...	937
	<i>Mr. Trevelyan (Yorkshire, W. R., Elland)</i> ...	938

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause agreed to.

Remaining clauses agreed to.

Bill reported, with Amendments; as amended, to be considered for To-morrow.

Bodies Corporate (Joint Tenancy) Bill [Lords]—Considered in Committee, and reported, without Amendment; read the third time, and passed, without Amendment ... 938

Expiring Laws Continuance Bill—Read a second time, and committed for To-morrow ... 938

Seats for Shop Assistants Bill (changed from “**Seats for Shop Assistants (England and Ireland) Bill**”)—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to ... 938

Summary Jurisdiction Act (1879) Amendment Bill—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to ... 938

Tancred's Charities Scheme Confirmation Bill—Read a second time, and committed for To-morrow ... 938

Baths and Washhouses Acts Amendment Bill—As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill read the third time, and passed ... 939

Lincolnshire Coroners Bill [Lords]—Considered in Committee.

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 1 :—

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 9, to leave out from the word ‘Acts,’ to the end of the clause.”—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

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DISCUSSION :—

The Under Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Jesse Collings, Birmingham, Bordesley) ... 939

Committee report Progress ; to sit again To-morrow.

Marriages Validity (No. 2) Bill [Lords]—Read a second time, and committed for To-morrow... 939

Manchester Canonries Bill [Lords]—[SECOND READING]—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, “That the Bill be now read a second time.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Lewis (Flint Boroughs)</i>	940	<i>The Solicitor-General (Sir R. B. Finlay, Inverness Burghs)</i>	940
<i>Mr. Carvell Williams (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield)</i>	940		

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

Commons and Open Spaces Bill [Lords]—[SECOND READING]—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, “That the Bill be now read a second time.”—(*Mr. Long.*)

Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) ... 941

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

Parliamentary Deposits Bill—Order for Second Reading read and discharged ; Bill withdrawn ... 941

SUPPLY [28TH JULY]—Resolutions reported.

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES, 1899–1900.

CLASS II.

1. “That a sum, not exceeding £31,405, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Her Majesty’s Secretary of State for the Colonies, including a Grant in Aid of certain Expenses connected with Emigration.”

CLASS I.

2. “That a sum, not exceeding £209,705, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for Rates and Contributions in lieu of Rates, &c., in respect of Government Property, and for Rates on Houses occupied by Representatives of Foreign Powers, and for the Salaries and Expenses of the Rating of Government Property Department, and for a Contribution towards the Expense of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade.”

CLASS II.

3. "That a sum, not exceeding £6,900, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council."

4. "That a sum, not exceeding £27,594, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Charity Commission for England and Wales, including the Endowed Schools Department."

5. "That a sum, not exceeding £28,405, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Civil Service Commission."

6. "That a sum, not exceeding £39,407, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of the Comptroller and Auditor-General."

7. "That a sum, not exceeding £4,912, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Registry of Friendly Societies."

8. "That a sum, not exceeding £14,400, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Her Majesty's Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues, and of the Office of Land Revenue Records and Inrolments." 941

Resolutions read a second time.

First Resolution postponed.

Second to Seventh Resolutions agreed to.

Eighth Resolution :—

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Debate arising.

Debate adjourned till To-morrow.

Postponed Resolution to be considered To-morrow.

SUPPLY—Considered in Committee.

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES, 1899-1900

CLASS I.

1. £65,000, Supplementary, Public Buildings, Great Britain.

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DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) ...</i>	944	<i>The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. Akers-Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's)</i>	944
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Vote agreed to.

CLASS III.

2. £500, Supplementary, Miscellaneous Legal Expenses.

CLASS V.

3. £367,801 (including a Supplementary sum of £75,000), to complete the sum for Colonial Services.

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Captain Sinclair (Forfarshire) ...</i>	945	<i>Mr. J. Chamberlain</i>	949
<i>The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham W.) ...</i>	946	<i>Mr. Labouchere (Northampton) ...</i>	950
<i>Mr. Buchanan (Aberdeenshire, E.)</i>	948	<i>Mr. J. Chamberlain</i>	951
		<i>Major Jameson (Clare, W.) ...</i>	951

Vote agreed to.

CLASS VII.

4. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £23,175 (including a Supplementary sum of £9,175), be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and other Expenses of Temporary Commissions, Committees, and Special Inquiries, including a Grant in Aid of the Congested Districts Board (Ireland)."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir Charles Dilke</i>	952	<i>The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)</i>	954
<i>Mr. Lewis (Flint Boroughs) ..</i>	952		

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That a sum, not exceeding £23,075, be granted for the said Service."—
(*Mr. Lewis.*)

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 49 ; Noes, 114. (Division List, No. 321.)

Original Question put, and agreed to.

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	955	<i>Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid) ...</i>	955
<i>Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs) ...</i>	955		

Committee report Progress.

Resolutions to be reported To-morrow.

Committee to sit again To-morrow.

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Naval Works Bill —Read the third time, and passed	956
Poor Law Acts Amendment Bill [Lords]—Read a second time, and committed for To-morrow	956
Land Tax Commissioners' Names Bill —Considered in Committee.	
[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]	
DISCUSSION :—	
<i>Mr. Lewis (Flint Boroughs)</i> 956 <i>Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs)</i> ...	957
Motion made, and Question proposed—	
“That the Committee report Progress, and ask leave to sit again.”—(<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour.</i>)	
<i>Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean)</i>	958
Motion, by leave, withdrawn.	
Bill reported, without Amendment ; read the third time, and passed.	
Lunacy Bill [Lords]—Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn	958
Charitable Loans (Ireland) Bill —Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn	958
Inebriates Act (1898) Amendment Bill —Considered in Committee, and reported ; as amended, to be considered To-morrow	958
Palatine Court of Durham Bill [Lords]—Order for resuming adjourned Debate on Amendment to Second Reading [4th July] read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn... ..	958
NAVY AND ARMY EXPENDITURE, 1897–8 —Considered in Committee.	

1. That it appears by the Navy Appropriation Account for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1898, and the statement appended thereto, as follows, viz. :—

- (a) That the gross expenditure for certain Navy Services exceeded the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £595,246 2s. 1d., as shown in Column No. 1 of the Schedule hereto appended ; while the gross expenditure for other Navy Services fell short of the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £2,038,302 12s. 8d., as shown in Column No. 2 of the said appended Schedule, so that the gross actual expenditure for the whole of the Navy Services fell short of the gross estimated expenditure by the net sum of £1,443,056 10s. 7d.
- (b) That the receipts in aid of certain Navy Services fell short of the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £13,137 17s. 8d., as shown in Column No. 3 of the said appended Schedule ; while the receipts in aid of other Navy Services exceeded the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £59,218 9s. 4d., as shown in Column No. 4 of the said appended Schedule ; so that the total actual receipts in aid of the Grants for Navy Services exceeded the total estimated receipts by the net sum of £46,080 11s. 8d.

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- (c) That the resulting differences between the Exchequer Grants for Navy Services and the net expenditure are as follows, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Total Surpluses	2,041,004	0	5
Total Deficits	551,866	18	2
Net Surplus	£1,489,137	2	3

2. That the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have temporarily authorised the application, in reduction of the net charge on Exchequer Grants for certain Navy Services, of the whole of the sums received in excess of the estimated Appropriations in Aid, in respect of the same Services ; and have also temporarily authorised the application of so much of the said total surpluses on certain Grants for Navy Services as is necessary to cover the said deficits on other Grants for Navy Services.

3. Resolved, That the application of such sums be sanctioned.

See Schedule A.

4. That it appears by the Army Appropriation Account for the year ended 31st day of March, 1898, and the statement appended thereto, as follows, viz. :—

- (a) That the gross expenditure for certain Army Services exceeded the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £151,696 5s. 6d., as shown in Column No. 1 of the Schedule hereto appended ; while the gross expenditure for other Army Services fell short of the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £167,041 2s. 10d., as shown in Column No. 2 of the said appended Schedule ; so that the gross actual expenditure for the whole of the Army Services fell short of the gross estimated expenditure by the net sum of £15,344 17s. 4d.
- (b) That the receipts in aid of certain Army Services fell short of the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £46,536 1s. 11d., as shown in Column No. 3 of the said appended Schedule ; while the receipts in aid of other Army Services exceeded the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £133,300 13s. 11d., as shown in Column No. 4 of the said appended Schedule ; so that the total actual receipts in aid of the Grants for Army Services exceeded the total estimated receipts by the net sum of £86,764 12s.
- (c) That the resulting differences between the Exchequer Grants for Army Services and the net expenditure are as follows, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Total Surpluses	235,876	18	1
Total Deficits	133,767	8	9
Net Surplus	£102,109	9	4

SCHEDULE A.

Number of Vote.	Navy Services, 1897-98. Votes.	Gross Expenditure.			Appropriations in Aid.		
		Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure.	Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure.		Deficiencies of Actual as compared with Esti- mated Receipts.	Surpluses of Actual as compared with Esti- mated Receipts.	
		1.	2.		3.	4.	
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1 -	Wages, &c., of Officers, Seamen, and Boys, Coast Guard, and Royal Marines - -	—	78,418 3 7	—	—	9,034 16 3	
2 -	Victualling and Clothing for the Navy - -	—	18,436 8 9	12,023 18 9			
3 -	Medical Establishments and Services - -	—	4,557 7 7	—	1,875 10 3		
4 -	Martial Law - -	734 0 8	—	10 16 5			
5 -	Educational Services - -	—	1,788 17 0	838 15 8			
6 -	Scientific Services - -	—	299 2 3	—	685 4 6		
7 -	Royal Naval Reserves - -	—	22,298 14 8	—	18 17 2		
8 -	Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, &c. :						
Sec. 1	Personnel - -	59,255 16 3	—	57 1 4			
Sec. 2	Matériel - -	348,753 17 10	—	—	31,655 18 8		
Sec. 3	Contract Work - -	—	1,884,638 15 7	—	1,712 10 0		
9 -	Naval Armaments - -	62,153 8 7	—	—	7,757 7 9		
10 -	Works, Buildings, and Repairs at Home and Abroad - -	—	27,865 3 3	—	2,255 4 0		
11 -	Miscellaneous Effective Services - -	103,857 5 2	—	—	4,211 4 5		
12 -	Admiralty Office - -	1,068 4 0	—	—	15 9 9		
13 -	Half-Pay, Reserved and Retired Pay - -	1,754 4 1	—	55 10 0			
14 -	Naval and Marine Pen- sions, Gratuities, and Compassionate Allow- ances - -	10,071 6 7	—	9 15 6			
15 -	Civil Pensions and Gra- tuities - -	4,780 3 9	—	—	14 6 7		
16 -	Additional Naval Force for Service in Austr- alasian Waters - -	42 16 0	—	139 0 0			
	Amount written off as irrecoverable - -	2,574 19 2					
		595,246 2 1	2,038,302 12 8	13,137 17 8	59,218 9 4		
Net Surplus, £1,443,056 10 7				Net Surplus, £46,080 11 8			
Surplus surrendered to the Exchequer —				£1,489,127 2 3			

5. That the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have temporarily authorised the application, in reduction of the net charge on Exchequer Grants for certain Army Services, of the whole of the sums received in excess of the estimated Appropriations in Aid, in respect of the same Services; and have also temporarily authorised the application of so much of the said total surpluses on certain Grants for Army Services as is necessary to cover the said total deficits on other Grants for Army Services.

6. Resolved, That the application of such sums be sanctioned.

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SCHEDULE B.

No. of Vote.	Army Services, 1897-98. Votes.	Gross Expenditure.		Appropriations in Aid.	
		Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure.	Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure.	Deficiencies of Actual as compared with Esti- mated Re- ceipts.	Surpluses of Actual as compared with Esti- mated Re- ceipts.
		1.	2.	3.	4.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1	Pay, &c., of Army (General Staff, Regiments, Reserve, and Departments) ...	52,171 3 11	—	—	3,572 10 4
2	Medical Establishments; Pay, &c. ...	6,211 18 10	—	—	170 14 2
3	Militia: Pay, Extra Pay, Bounty, &c. ...	—	12,804 1 3	—	2,191 19 3
4	Yeomanry Cavalry: Pay and Allowances ...	—	475 11 9	—	3 0 0
5	Volunteer Corps: Pay and Allowances ...	—	1,378 12 7	—	180 9 6
6	Transport and Remounts ...	23,350 4 0	—	—	11,223 15 7
7	Provisions, Forage, and other Supplies ...	40,856 10 5	—	—	11,534 4 3
8	Clothing Establishments, and Services ...	14,742 3 2	—	15,554 12 7	
9	Warlike and other Stores: Supply and Repair ...	—	99,201 19 2	—	90,970 12 4
10	Works, Buildings, and Repairs: Cost, including Staff for Engineer Services	—	37,043 13 4	30,864 4 4	
11	Establishments for Military Education ...	—	1,281 17 3	—	1,476 7 6
12	Miscellaneous Effective Services ...	5,044 9 8	—	—	557 14 6
13	War Office: Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges ...	—	3,336 13 11	—	140 0 11
14	Non-effective Charges for Officers, &c. ...	6,541 15 6	—	—	8,296 2 4
15	Non-effective Charges for Men, &c. ...	—	10,918 13 7	—	2,983 3 3
16	Superannuation, Compensation, and Compassionate Allowances ...	2,539 13 7	—	117 5 0	
	Balance irrecoverable ...	238 6 5			
		151,696 5 6	167,041 2 10	46,536 1 11	133,300 10 11

Net Surplus, £15,344 17 4 Net Surplus, £86,764 12 0

Surplus surrendered to the Exchequer — £102,109 9 4

—Mr. Hanbury 959

Resolutions to be reported To-morrow.

In pursuance of the Order of the House of the 17th day of this instant July, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at twenty minutes after Twelve of the clock,

LORDS: TUESDAY, 1ST AUGUST 1899.

ROYAL ASSENT.

COMMISSION—The following Bills received the Royal Assent: 1. Metropolis Management Acts Amendment (Bye-laws); 2. Gordon Memorial College at Khartoum; 3. Tithe Rent-charge (Rates); 4. Congested Districts Board (Ireland); 5. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 4); 6. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 10); 7. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 11); 8. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 12); 9. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 13); 10. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 14); 11. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 15); 12. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 17); 13. Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1); 14. Gas and Water Orders Confirmation; 15. Water Orders Confirmation; 16. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4); 17. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6); 18. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9); 19. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10); 20. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12); 21. Local Government Provisional Order (No. 15); 22. Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1); 23. Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2); 24. Burgh Police (Scotland) Provisional Order; 25. Leith Harbour and Docks; 26. Liverpool Overhead Railway; 27. All Saints' Church (Cardiff); 28. Great Grimsby Street Tramways; 29. West Gloucestershire Water; 30. Lowestoft Water and Gas; 31. Totland Water; 32. Brighton Marine Palace and Pier; 33. Glasgow Corporation (Gas and Water); 34. Millwall Dock; 35. Ayr Burgh; 36. Furness Railway; 37. Glasgow Corporation (Tramways, etc.); 38. Kirkcaldy Corporation and Tramways; 39. South-Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Companies; 40. Birmingham Corporation; 41. Milton Creek Conservancy; 42. Woking Water and Gas; 43. Mersey Docks and Harbour Board (Pilotage); 44. Greenock and Port Glasgow Tramways; 45. Brooke's Park (Londonderry); 46. Owen's College, Manchester; 47. Lincoln and East Coast Railway and Dock; 48. Lowestoft Promenade Pier; 49. Midland and South-Western Junction Railway; 50. Bristol Gas; 51. South Hants Water; 52. Goole Urban District Council; 53. Great Yarmouth Corporation; 54. Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway Company; 55. Blackpool Improvement; 56. Central London Railway; 57. Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours; 58. Great Western Railway; 59. Manchester Corporation (General Powers); 60. Lea Bridge District Gas; 61. Sunderland Corporation; 62. Menstone Water; 63. Baker Street and Waterloo Railway; 64. Derby Corporation Tramways, &c.; 65. London United Tramways; 66. Redditch Gas; 67. Stockport Corporation; 68. Loughborough Corporation; 69. Mersey Docks and Harbour Board (Finance); 70. Port Talbot Railway and Docks; 71. Whitehaven Corporation; 72. Humber Conservancy; 73. Great Northern Railway; 74. Great Northern and Strand Railway; 75. Great Western and Great Central Railway Companies; 76. London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway (Various Powers); 77. South-Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Companies (New Lines); 78. Stockport Corporation Water; 79. Walker and Wallsend Union Gas (Electric Lighting); 80. Godalming Corporation Water; 81. London and North-Western Railway (New Railways); 82. Sheffield Corporation Markets; 83. Weston-super-Mare Grand Pier	965
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PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

London and North-Western Railway (Additional Powers) Bill; Renfrew Burgh and Harbour Extension Bill [Lords]—Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to	967
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Caledonian Railway (General Powers) Bill [Lords]; Aberdeen Joint Passenger Station Bill [Lords]; Leigh-on-Sea Urban District Council Bill [Lords]; Moss Side Urban District Council (Tramways) Bill [Lords]; Stretford Urban District Council (Tramways) Bill [Lords]; Withington Urban District Council (Tramways) Bill [Lords]; Weston-super-Mare, Clevedon, and Portishead Tramways Company (Light Railway Extensions) Bill [Lords]; Yeadon and Guiseley Gas Bill [Lords]—Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to	967
North-West London Railway Bill ; Brompton and Piccadilly Circus Railway Bill ; Leeds Corporation Bill ; Charing Cross, Euston and Hampstead Railway Bill —Read the third time, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons	967
Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords]; South Staffordshire Tramways Bill [Lords]—Returned from the Commons agreed to ...	968
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14) Bill ; Darwen Corporation Bill ; Warrington Corporation Bill ; Worcestershire County Council Bill —Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to	968
Cromer Protection Bill [Lords]; Hastings Harbour Bill [Lords]; Oldham Corporation Bill [Lords]; Oystermouth Railway or Tramroad Bill [Lords]—Returned from the Commons, agreed to, with Amendments ...	968
Glasgow and South-Western Railway Bill [Lords]; Great Eastern Railway (General Powers) Bill [Lords]; Great Yarmouth Water Bill [Lords]; North-Eastern Railway Bill [Lords]; North Staffordshire Railway Bill [Lords]; Wolverhampton Tramways Bill [Lords]—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments; the said Amendments considered, and agreed to	968
Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 20) Bill —Read the third time [according to Order], with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons	968
Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords]; Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 3) Bill [Lords]—Commons Amendments considered [according to Order], and agreed to	968

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FOREIGN LABOUR STATISTICS (BOARD OF TRADE, LABOUR DEPARTMENT) —Abstract of foreign labour statistics relating to wages, hours of labour, trade disputes, and co-operation	969
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NAVAL PRIZE MONEY—Account showing the receipt and expenditure of naval prize, bounty, salvage, and other moneys between the 1st April 1898 and the 31st March 1899. Laid before the House [pursuant to Act], and ordered to lie on the Table	969

PETITIONS.

Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Bill—Petition in favour of ; of Commissioners of the Burgh of Partick ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table	969
Anchors and Chain Cables Bill ; Seats for Shop Assistants Bill ; Summary Jurisdiction Act (1879) Amendment Bill —Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to... ..	970
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Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Bill —Order of the Day for the House being put into Committee read.	

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Lord Tweedmouth</i>	970	<i>The Chairman of Committees (The Earl of Morley)</i>	971
<i>The Secretary for Scotland (Lord Balfour of Burleigh)</i>	970		

House in Committee, according to Order.

Clause 1 amended, and agreed to.

Clause 2 :—

Amendment moved—

“In page 2, line 11, to leave out ‘The Chairmen report, and it appears from such report,’ and insert, ‘it appears from the report of the Chairmen.’”—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

“In page 2, line 35, to leave out Sub-section 5.”—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Lord Tweedmouth</i>	972	<i>Lord Balfour of Burleigh</i>	972
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Amendment agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

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Clause 3 :—

Amendment moved—

“ In page 2, line 39, to leave out ‘ no report,’ and insert, ‘ the Chairmen report that the Provisional Order may proceed.’ ”—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Consequential Amendment agreed to.

Clause 3, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 4 :—

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Lord Tweedmouth</i> ...	973	<i>The Earl of Morley</i> ...	974
<i>Lord Balfour of Burleigh</i> ...	974		

Clause 4 agreed to.

Clause 5 :—

Amendment moved—

“ In page 3, line 37, to leave out from ‘ shall ’ to ‘ appoint ’ in line 39.”—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Consequential Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

“ In line 24, to leave out from ‘ panels ’ to the end of the sub-section.”—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

“ In page 4, line 35, to leave out ‘ not,’ and insert ‘ neither,’ and after ‘ acting’ insert ‘ nor preferred.’ ”—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Lord Balfour of Burleigh</i> ...	976	<i>The Earl of Camperdown</i> ...	976
<i>Lord Tweedmouth</i> ...	976		

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 5, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 6 :—

Amendment moved—

“ In page 5, line 8, to leave out Sub-section (3).”—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Clause 6, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 7 and 8 agreed to.

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Clause 9 :—

Amendment moved—

“ In page 7, line 11, to leave out ‘ the House in which it originates,’ and insert ‘ either House ’; and in line 12, after the first ‘ Bill ’ insert, ‘ and if upon motion made either House do resolve that it is expedient to inquire into the propriety of assenting to the prayer of the said petition.’ ”—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

DISCUSSION :—

Lord Balfour of Burleigh ... 979 *The Earl of Camperdown* ... 980

Amendments (by leave of the House) withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

“ In page 7, to leave out Clause 9.”—(*Lord Tweedmouth.*)

DISCUSSION :—

Lord Balfour of Burleigh ... 983 *Lord Tweedmouth* ... 983

Amendment negatived.

Clause 9, agreed to.

Clauses 10 to 15, agreed to.

Clause 16, amended, and agreed to.

Clause 17 :—

Amendment moved—

“ In line 37, to leave out the words ‘ consider such objection, and may, if they think fit, either report to the Secretary for Scotland that such objection raises an issue or issues which ought to be dealt with by Private Bill and not by Provisional Order, or.’ ”—(*Lord Tweedmouth.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh... ... 984

Amendment (by leave of the House) withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

“ In page 9, to leave out Clause 17.”—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh ... 985

Amendment (by leave of the House) withdrawn.

Clause 17 agreed to.

Clause 18 :—

DISCUSSION :—

Lord Tweedmouth ... 985 *Lord Balfour of Burleigh* ... 986

Clause 18 agreed to.

Standing Committee negatived. The Report of Amendments to be received on Thursday next; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 189.)

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Small Houses (Acquisition of Ownership) Bill—Amendments reported (according to Order).

Amendment moved—

“In page 3, line 14, to leave out from ‘with’ to ‘any’ in line 16; and in line 17, to leave out ‘other’, and leave out from ‘conditions’ to ‘the’ in line 18.”
—(*Lord Davey*.)

The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies (The Earl of Selborne) ... 987

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

“In line 22, after ‘advance,’ to insert, ‘or the condition as to residence.’”—
(*Lord Davey*.)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The Earl of Selborne</i>	...	988	<i>The Lord Chancellor (The Earl of</i>	
<i>Lord Davey</i>	...	989	<i>Halsbury)</i>	... .. 989

Amendment moved—

“In page 3, line 38, at end of Sub-section 1 to add, ‘and in the case of any such transfer the transferee shall become personally liable for the repayment thereof.’”—(*Lord Davey*.)

The Earl of Selborne 990

Amendment (by leave of the House) withdrawn.

Clause 5 :—

Amendment moved—

“In page 4, line 3, to leave out Sub-sections 1, 2, 3, and 4.”—(*Lord Davey*.)

The Earl of Selborne 992

Amendment (by leave of the House) withdrawn.

Clause 6 amended.

Amendment moved—

“In page 12, after Clause 14, to insert new clause :

“(1.) Where a local authority make an advance under this Act in Ireland they shall cause the title to the premises in respect of which the advance is made to be registered under the Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Act, 1891, and shall pay the cost of first registration out of the advance.

(2.) Rules under this Act—

(a) shall adapt that Act to the registration of ownerships under this Act, and provide for the easy transfer of such ownerships.

(b) shall provide for the registration (if required) of a person as the proprietor under this Act with such a possessory or qualified title as is provided under the Land Transfer Acts 1875 and 1879; and

(c) shall provide that the fees payable to the Local Registration of Title Office in respect of either first registration of, or any subsequent dealing with, such premises, shall not exceed ten shillings.

(3.) The person appearing on the register for the time being as proprietor shall alone be the proprietor for the purposes of this Act.”—(*The Earl of Denbigh*.)

Amendment agreed to.

Bill to be read the third time on Thursday next, and to be printed as amended. (No. 190.)

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Page

Agricultural and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Bill—House in Committee (according to Order).

Clauses 1 to 4 agreed to.

Clause 5:—

Amendment moved—

“In page 3, line 32, after ‘Agriculture’ to insert ‘sea fisheries, fresh-water fisheries.’”—(*The Earl of Mayo.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Earl Spencer</i>	...	...	994	<i>The Lord Chancellor of Ireland</i>	
				(<i>Lord Ashbourne</i>)	... 995

Amendment withdrawn.

Clause 5 agreed to.

Clauses 6, 7, 8, and 9, agreed to.

Clause 10 :—

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The Earl of Arran</i>	...	995	<i>The Prime Minister and Secretary</i>	
<i>Lord Ashbourne</i>	...	996	<i>of State for Foreign Affairs</i>	
<i>Viscount Templetown</i>	...	996	(<i>The Marquess of Salisbury</i>)	... 997
<i>Earl Spencer</i>	...	997		

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 10, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 11 :—

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The Earl of Arran</i>	...	997	<i>Lord Ashbourne</i>	... 998
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Clause 11 agreed to.

Clauses 12 to 29 agreed to.

Clause 30, amended, and agreed to.

Bill, as amended, reported to the House.

<i>Lord Ashbourne</i>	998
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Standing Committee negatived. The Report of Amendments to be received on Thursday next ; and Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered in order to its being dispensed with ; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 191.)

Isle of Man (Customs) Bill—Read the third time (according to Order), and passed.**Sale of Food and Drugs Bill**—House in Committee (according to Order.)

Clause 1 :—

Amendment moved—

“In page 1, line 17, to leave out ‘separated,’ and insert ‘machine-skinned.’”
—(*Viscount Cross.*)

Amendment agreed to.

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Clauses 2 to 7 agreed to.

Clause 8.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Earl Spencer</i>	...	...	999	<i>The Earl of Kimberley</i>	...	...	1000
<i>Viscount Cross</i>	...	...	999	<i>Viscount Cross</i>	...	...	1000

Clause 8 agreed to.

Clauses 9 to 13 agreed to.

Amendment moved—

“To insert, after Clause 13, the following new clause : ‘The provisions of Section 3 and Section 4 of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act Amendment Act, 1879 (relating to the taking of samples of milk in course of delivery), shall apply to every other article of food, provided that no samples shall be taken under this section except upon the request or with the consent of the purchaser or consignee.’—(*Viscount Cross.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 14 to 18 agreed to.

Clause 19 :—

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Amendment moved—

“In page 8, at the end of the clause, to add the following Sub-section :—(6) Every person who, in respect of an article of food or drug sold by him as principal or agent, gives to the purchaser a false warranty in writing, shall be liable on summary conviction, for the first offence, to a fine not exceeding twenty pounds ; for the second offence to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds ; and for any subsequent offence to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds, unless he proves to the satisfaction of the court that when he gave the warranty he had reason to believe that the statements or descriptions contained therein were true.”—(*Viscount Cross.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 19, as amended, agreed to,

Clause 20 agreed to.

Clause 21 :—

Amendment moved—

“In page 8, at end to insert, as a new sub-section : ‘(2) A copy of every such certificate shall be sent to the prosecutor at least three clear days before the return day, and if it be not so sent, the court may, if it thinks fit, adjourn the hearing on such terms as may seem proper.’—(*Viscount Cross.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 21, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 22 agreed to.

Clause 23, amended, and agreed to.

Bill reported, with Amendments, to the House.

Standing Committee negatived. The Report of Amendments to be received on Thursday next ; Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered in order to its being dispensed with ; and Bill to be printed as amended. [No. 192.]

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Royal Niger Company Bill—[SECOND READING]—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.Moved, "That the Bill be now read the second time."—(*The Marquess of Salisbury.*)*The Earl of Kimberley* 1004

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the second time (according to Order); and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday next.

Electric Lighting (Clauses) Bill—House in Committee (according to Order.)

Bill reported without Amendment.

DISCUSSION :—

The Chairman of Committees 1005
(*The Earl of Morley*) ... 1004*The Earl of Dudley* 1005

Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read the third time on Thursday next.

Improvement of Land Bill—House in Committee (according to Order); Amendments made; Standing Committee negatived; The Report of Amendments to be received on Thursday next; and Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered in order to its being dispensed with.**Seats for Shop Assistants Bill.**

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

The Earl of Wemyss ... 1006 *The Lord President of the Council*
(*The Duke of Devonshire*) ... 1009**Baths and Washhouses Acts Amendment Bill**—Brought from the Commons; read the first time, and to be printed. (No. 193.)... .. 1012**Land Tax Commissioners' Names Bill**—Brought from the Commons; read the first time; to be printed; and to be read a second time on Thursday next.—(*The Marquess of Salisbury.*) (No. 194.) 1012**Metropolitan Police Bill**—Brought from the Commons; Read the first time; to be printed; and to be read a second time on Thursday next.—(*The Lord Belper*); and Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered in order to its being dispensed with. (No. 195.) 1012**Naval Works Bill**—Brought from the Commons; Read the first time; to be printed; and to be read a second time on Thursday next.—(*The Duke of Marlborough.*) (No. 196.) 1012**Patriotic Fund Bill (No. 197); Reserve Forces Bill (No. 198.)**—Brought from the Commons; read the first time; to be printed; and to be read a second time on Thursday next.—(*The Marquess of Lansdowne.*) 1012

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Telegraphs (Telephonic Communication) Bill—Brought from the Commons; read the first time; to be printed; and to be read a second time on Thursday next.—(*The Duke of Norfolk.*) (No. 199.) ... 1012

Dublin Corporation Bill—Returned from the Commons with several of the Amendments made by the Lords agreed to; several agreed to with Amendments; and several disagreed to, with reasons for such disagreement, and with consequential Amendments to the Bill. The said Amendments and reasons to be printed, and to be considered on Thursday next. (No. 200.) 1012

Military Works Bill—Brought from the Commons; read the first time; to be printed; and to be read a second time on Thursday next.—(*The Marquess of Lansdowne.*) (No. 201.) ... 1013

House adjourned at a quarter past Seven of the clock.

COMMONS: TUESDAY, 1ST AUGUST 1899.

ROYAL ASSENT.

Message to attend the Lords Commissioners. The House went; and, being returned, Mr. SPEAKER reported the Royal Assent to a number of Bills. (See first item in House of Lords Report this day; *ante*, page 965.) ... 1013

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Dublin Corporation (Markets) Bill; London County Council (General Powers) Bill; London County Council (Money) Bill—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to ... 1013

Dublin Corporation Bill—Lords Amendments considered.

Amendment in Preamble, page 2, line 3, to leave out "the townships hereinafter mentioned (other than the township of Rathmines and Rathgar)," and insert "township of New Kilmainham," the first Amendment, read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth disagree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Carson (Dublin University) ... 1015
Mr. Clancy (Dublin County, N.) ... 1017
Sir Edward Clarke (Plymouth) ... 1019
Mr. Johnson-Ferguson (Leicestershire, Loughborough) 1021

The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. G. W. Balfour, Leeds, Central) ... 1022
Sir H. H. Fowler (Wolverhampton, E.) ... 1022
Mr. Wanklyn (Bradford, Central) 1023

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 160; Noes, 52. (Division List, No. 322.)

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Subsequent Amendments to Preamble disagreed to.

Remaining Amendments read a second time.

Several agreed to, without Amendment ; one amended, and agreed to.

Several disagreed to, and a consequential Amendment made to the Bill.

Committee appointed to draw up Reasons to be assigned to the Lords for disagreeing to certain of their Amendments to the Bill.

Committee nominated of,—Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Clancy, Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Johnson-Ferguson, and Mr. Molloy. Three to be the quorum.—(*Mr. T. W. Russell.*) To withdraw immediately.

Fylde Water Board Bill [Lords]; **Wakefield Corporation Bill** [Lords]
—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 1027

North-Eastern and Hull and Barnsley Railways (Joint Docks) Bill
[Lords]—[By Order]; as Amended, considered.

Amendments made.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 21, lines 37, leave out from the word ‘Hull,’ to the word ‘provided,’ in page 22, line 7.”—(*Sir Albert Rollit.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill.”

DISCUSSION :—

Sir J. Kennaway (Devon,
Honiton) 1028
Sir J. Joicey (Durham,
Chester-le-Street) 1028
Mr. Maddison (Sheffield,
Brightside) 1028

The Chairman of Committees (*Mr.*
J. W. Lowther, Cumberland,
Penrith) 1029
Sir Albert Rollit (Islington, S.) ... 1029

Question, “That the Debate be now adjourned,” put, and agreed to.

Debate adjourned till To-morrow.

Education Department Provisional Order Confirmation (London) Bill [Lords]—Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table. Bill, as amended, to be considered, To-morrow 1029

Southport and Lytham Tramroad Bill [Lords]—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1029

Southport and Lytham Tramroad Bill [Lords]—Ordered, That, in the case of the Southport and Lytham Tramroad Bill [Lords], Standing Orders 211, 236, and 237 be suspended, and that the Committee on the Bill have leave to sit and proceed forthwith.—(*Dr. Farquharson.*) 1029

Dublin Corporation Bill—Reasons for disagreeing to certain of the Lords Amendments reported, and agreed to. To be communicated to the Lords 1029

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PETITIONS.

GROUND RENTS (TAXATION BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES)—Petition from Kirriemuir, in favour ; to lie upon the Table ... 1030

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors on Sunday Bill—Petition from Somerby, in favour ; to lie upon the Table ... 1030

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

BOARD OF TRADE (LABOUR DEPARTMENT) (ABSTRACT OF FOREIGN LABOUR STATISTICS)—Copy presented,—of Abstract of Foreign Labour Statistics relating to Wages, Hours of Labour, Trade Disputes, and Co-operation [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table ... 1030

TRADE UNIONS—Copy presented,—of Report by the Chief Labour Correspondent of the Board of Trade on Trade Unions, 1898, with Comparative Statistics for 1892–7 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table ... 1030

NAVAL EXPENDITURE AND MERCANTILE MARINE (GREAT BRITAIN, &c.)—Return presented,—relative thereto [ordered 21st March ; *Sir John Colomb*] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 310) ... 1030

COLONIAL LOANS—Copy presented,—of Explanatory Statement as to proposed Loans comprised in the Schedule to the Colonial Loans Bill [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table ... 1030

PRISONS (IRELAND)—Copy presented,—of Twenty-first Report of the General Prisons Board (Ireland) for 1898–9, with an Appendix [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table ... 1030

NAVY (COURTS MARTIAL)—Copy presented,—of Return of the number of Courts Martial held and Summary Punishments inflicted during the year 1898 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table ... 1030

NAVY (HEALTH)—Copy presented,—of Statistical Report of the Health of the Navy for the year 1898 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 311.) ... 1031

SEAMEN AND MARINES (PENSIONS)—Return presented,—relative thereto [ordered 21st July ; *Lord Charles Beresford*] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 312.) ... 1031

FLEETS (GREAT BRITAIN AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES)—Return presented,—relative thereto [ordered 21st July ; *Sir Charles Dilke*] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 313.) ... 1031

NAVAL PRIZE MONEY—Account presented,—showing the Receipt and Expenditure of Naval Prize, Bounty, Salvage, and other Moneys between the 1st April 1898, and 31st March 1899 [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 314.) ... 1031

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES)—Copies presented,—of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2323 to 2325 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table ... 1031

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THORNTON JUNCTION STATION—Copy ordered, “of Report by Colonel Sir Francis Marindin, K.C.M.G., of his inspection of Thornton Junction Station, on the North British Railway, with reference to complaints which have been received by the Board of Trade in regard to the accommodation at, and access to, that station.”—(*Mr. Ritchie.*) Copy presented accordingly ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 315.] 1031

ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER No. 17—Return ordered, “of Motions for adjournment under Standing Order No. 17, showing the date of such Motion, the name of the Member proposing, the definite matter of urgent public importance, and the result of any Division taken thereon during the Session of 1899 (in the same form as, and in continuation of, Parliamentary Paper No. 356, of Session 1898).”—(*Dr. Farquharson.*) 1031

CLOSURE OF DEBATE (STANDING ORDER No. 25)—Return ordered, “respecting application of Standing Order No. 25 (Closure of Debate) during Session 1899, under the following heads :—

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
Date when Closure moved.	By whom moved.	Question before House or Committee when moved.	Whether in House or Committee.	Whether assent given to Motion or withheld by Speaker or Chairman.	Assent withheld because, in the opinion of the Chair, a decision would shortly be arrived at without that Motion.	Result of Motion, and, if a Division, Numbers for and against.

(in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 357, of Session 1898).”—(*Dr. Farquharson.*) 1032

DIVISIONS OF THE HOUSE—Return ordered, “of the number of Divisions of the House in the Session of 1899 ; stating the subject of Division, and the number of Members in the majority and minority, Tellers included ; also, the aggregate number in the House on each Division ; distinguishing the Divisions on Public Business from Private ; and also the number of Divisions before and after Midnight (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 0,280, of Session 1898).”—(*Dr. Farquharson.*) ... 1032

PUBLIC BILLS—Return ordered, “of the number of Public Bills, distinguishing Government from other Bills, introduced into this House, or brought from the House of Lords, during the Session of 1899 ; showing the number which received the Royal Assent ; the number which were passed by this House, but not by the House of Lords ; the number passed by the House of Lords, but not by this House ; and distinguishing the stages at which such Bills as did not receive the Royal Assent were dropped or postponed and rejected in either House of Parliament (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 0,283, of Session 1898).”—(*Dr. Farquharson.*) ... 1032

PUBLIC PETITIONS—Return ordered, “of the number of Public Petitions presented and printed in the Session of 1899 ; with the total number of signatures in that year (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 0,282, of Session 1898).”—(*Dr. Farquharson.*) 1033

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SELECT COMMITTEES—Return ordered, “of the number of Select Committees appointed in the Session of 1899, including the Standing Committees and the Court of Referees; the subjects of inquiry; the names of the Members appointed to serve on each, and the Chairman of each; the number of days each Committee met, and the number of days each Member attended; the total expense of the attendance of witnesses at each Select Committee, and the name of the Member who moved for such Select Committee; also the total number of Members who served on Select Committees (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 0,279, of Session 1898).”—(*Dr. Farquharson.*) 1033

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE—Return ordered, “of the number of days on which the House sat in the Session of 1899, stating for each day the date of the month and day of the week, the hour of the meeting, and the hour of adjournment; and the total number of hours occupied in the Sittings of the House, and the average time; and showing the number of hours on which the House sat each day, and the number of hours after midnight; and the number of entries in each day's Votes and Proceedings (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 0,281, of Session 1898).”—(*Dr. Farquharson.*) 1033

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (DAYS OCCUPIED BY GOVERNMENT AND BY PRIVATE MEMBERS)—Return ordered, “showing, with reference to the Session of 1899, (1) the number of Sittings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at which Government business had precedence; (2) the number of sittings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at which Private Members had precedence; (3) the number of other sittings at which, in accordance with the Standing Orders of the House, Government business had precedence; (4) the number of sittings at which Government business had precedence under a special Order of the House; (5) the number of Saturday sittings; (6) the total number of sittings at which Government business had precedence; (7) the total number of days on which the House sat; (8) the total number of Motions for Adjournment of the House on a matter of urgent public importance; and (9) the number of days in Supply (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 358, of Session, 1898).”—(*Dr. Farquharson.*) 1034

PRIVATE BILLS AND PRIVATE BUSINESS—Returns ordered, “of the number of Private Bills, Hybrid Bills, and Bills for confirming Provisional Orders introduced into the House of Commons and brought from the House of Lords, and of Acts passed in the Session of 1899, classed according to the following subjects:—Railways; Tramways; Tramroads; Subways; Canals and Navigations; Roads and Bridges; Water; Gas; Gas and Water; Improvement; Police and Sanitary Regulations; Corporations, &c. (not relating to Police and Sanitary Regulations); Ports, Piers, Harbours, and Docks; Churches, Chapels, and Burying Grounds; Markets and Fairs; Inclosure and Drainage; Estate; Divorce; Naturalisation; and Miscellaneous”:

“Of all the Private Bills, Hybrid Bills, and Bills for confirming Provisional Orders, which in the Session of 1899 have been reported on by Committees on opposed Private Bills or by Committees nominated partly by the House and partly by the Committee of Selection, together with the names of the selected Members who served on each Committee; the first and also the last day of the sitting of each Committee; the number of days on which each Committee sat; the number of days on which each selected Member has served; the number of days occupied by each Bill in Committee; the Bills the preambles of which were reported to have been proved; the Bills the preambles of which were reported to have been not proved; and, in the case of Bills for confirming Provisional Orders, whether the Provisional Orders ought or ought not to be confirmed”:

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"Of all Private Bills and Bills for confirming Provisional Orders which, in the Session of 1899, have been referred by the Committee of Selection, or by the General Committee on Railway and Canal Bills, to the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, together with the names of the Members who served on each Committee; the number of days on which each Committee sat; and the number of days on which each Member attended":

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Vagrants' Children Protection Bill—"For the further protection of the Children of Vagrants," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 299.)	1062

PUBLIC BUSINESS.

Military Works Bill—Read the third time, and passed	1062
Colonial Loans Bill—Considered in Committee.	

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith), in the Chair.]

Clause 1 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 6, to leave out the words 'the Colonies,' and insert the words 'Barbados and St. Vincent.'"—(*Captain Sinclair.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'the Colonies' stand part of the clause."

DISCUSSION :—

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman
(*Stirling Burghs*) ... 1063

The Secretary of State for the Colonies (*Mr. J. Chamberlain*
(*Birmingham, W.*) ... 1063

Committee report Progress; to sit again To-morrow.

Board of Education Bill [Lords]—Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill as amended (by the Standing Committee) be now considered."

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DISCUSSION :—

<i>Viscount Cranborne (Rochester)</i>	1066	<i>Mr. Griffith-Boscawen (Kent, Tunbridge)</i>	1073
<i>The Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education (Sir John Gorst, Cambridge University)</i>	1069	<i>Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.)</i>	1074
<i>Lord Hugh Cecil (Greenwich)</i>	1071	<i>Mr. Cripps (Gloucestershire, Stroud)</i>	1075
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<i>Mr. Birrell (Fife, W.)</i>	1072	<i>Mr. Yozall (Nottinghamshire, W.)</i>	1078

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, as amended, considered.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 8, after the word ‘President,’ to insert the words ‘who shall be a Member of the House of Commons.’”—(*Mr. Yozall.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir J. Gorst</i>	1080	<i>Mr. Humphreys-Owen (Montgomery)</i>	1082
<i>Mr. Bryce</i>	1080	<i>Mr. Carvell Williams (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield)</i>	1082
<i>Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.)</i>	1080		
<i>Mr. Ernest Gray (West Ham, N.)</i>	1081		

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, at the end of Clause 1, to insert the words, ‘(6) There shall be established under the Board three separate Departments for Secondary, Technical, and Elementary Education respectively.’”—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir John Gorst</i>	1082	<i>Viscount Cranborne</i>	1084
<i>Mr. Bryce</i>	1083	<i>Mr. Humphreys-Owen</i>	1085
<i>Mr. Jebb (Cambridge University)</i>	1084	<i>Sir E. Clarke (Plymouth)</i>	1085
		<i>Sir J. Gorst</i>	1086

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, line 1, after the word ‘Commissioners,’ to insert the words ‘other than the power of determining whether an endowment is within the exceptions specified in Section 19 of The Endowed Schools Act, 1869, as amended by The Endowed Schools Act, 1873.’”—(*Mr. Talbot.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir J. Gorst</i>	1087	<i>Mr. Griffith-Boscawen</i>	1090
<i>Mr. Sydney Gedge (Walsall)</i>	1087	<i>The Solicitor-General (Sir R. B. Finlay, Inverness Burghs)</i>	1091
<i>Mr. Cripps</i>	1088	<i>Mr. Ernest Gray</i>	1092
<i>Viscount Cranborne</i>	1089		
<i>Mr. William Jones (Carnarvonshire, Arfon)</i>	1089		

The House divided :—Ayes, 22 ; Noes, 142. (Division List, No. 323.)

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Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 1, after the word 'Commissioners,' to insert the words 'except as hereinafter provided.'"—(*Sir John Kennaway.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

<i>Sir J. Gorst</i>	1094
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Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 2, to leave out the words 'appearing to Her Majesty to relate,' and insert the word 'relating'—(*Mr. Cripps*)—instead thereof."

Question proposed, "That the words 'appearing to Her Majesty to relate' stand part of the Bill."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir R. B. Finlay</i>	...	...	1096	<i>Lord Hugh Cecil</i>	...	...	1097
<i>Sir E. Clarke</i>	...	...	1096	<i>Sir J. Gorst</i>	...	...	1099
<i>Sir William Anson (Oxford University)</i>	...	...	1097	<i>Mr. Yoxall</i>	...	...	1100

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 9, after the word 'purposes,' to insert the words: '(b) Any question as to the interpretation or construction of any instrument regulating an education endowment.'"—(*Sir John Kennaway.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir J. Gorst</i>	...	...	1101	<i>Mr. Bryce</i>	...	...	1102
<i>Viscount Cranborne</i>	...	...	1102	<i>Mr. Sydney Gedge</i>	...	...	1103

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 9, after the word 'Commissioners,' to insert the words, 'Provided also that the existing power to make a scheme for an education endowment, under the provisions of the Charitable Trusts Act of 1860, shall remain with the Charity Commissioners.'"—(*Sir John Kennaway.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be inserted."

<i>Sir J. Gorst</i>	1104
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Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 10, to leave out Clause 3."—(*Mr. Alfred Hutton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out to the word 'after,' in line 10, stand part of the Bill."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir J. Gorst</i>	...	...	1106	<i>Mr. Broadhurst (Leicester)</i>	...	1109
<i>Mr. William Jones</i>	1107	<i>Mr. David MacIvor (Liverpool, Kirkdale)</i>	...	1110
<i>Mr. Channing</i>	1108			

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

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Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, line 10, to leave out from the word ‘or,’ to the word ‘inspect,’ in line 12, and insert the words ‘by inspectors appointed for the purpose.’—(*Mr. Channing*)—instead thereof.”

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out to the word ‘or,’ in line 12, stand part of the Bill.”

<i>Sir J. Gorst</i>	1111
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Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, line 12, to leave out the words ‘or other organisation’”—(*Mr. Alfred Hutton*.)

Question proposed, “That the words ‘or other organisation’ stand part of the Bill.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir J. Gorst</i>	...	...	1112	<i>Mr. Bryce</i>	...	...	1113
<i>Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice</i>	...	...	...	<i>Sir Edward Clarke</i>	...	...	1114
(<i>Wills, Cricklade</i>)	...	...	1112	<i>Mr. Carvell Williams</i>	...	...	1115
<i>Mr. Ernest Gray</i>	...	...	1113	<i>Mr. Jebb</i>	...	...	1116
<i>Mr. Broadhurst</i>	...	...	1113				

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 153 ; Noes, 44. (Division List, No. 324.)

Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, line 12, after the word ‘organisation,’ to insert the words, ‘concerned with secondary or technical education.’”—(*Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice*.)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

<i>Sir J. Gorst</i>	1118
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Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 52 ; Noes, 143. (Division List, No. 325.)

Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, line 17, after the word ‘terms,’ to insert the words, ‘in regard to fees for such inspection.’”—(*Mr. Carvell Williams*.)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, line 25, to leave out Sub-section (2), of Clause 3.”—(*Mr. Alfred Hutton*.)

Question proposed, “That Sub-section (2), of Clause 3, stand part of the Bill.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir J. Gorst</i>	...	...	1121	<i>Mr. Ernest Gray</i>	...	...	1123
<i>Mr. Bryce</i>	...	...	1122	<i>Mr. Carvell Williams</i>	...	...	1123
<i>Mr. Channing</i>	...	...	1122	<i>Mr. Broadhurst</i>	...	...	1124
<i>Mr. Fortescue Flannery</i>				
(<i>Yorkshire, Shipley</i>)	1123				

Question put, and agreed to.

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Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 28, after the word 'borough,' to insert the words, '(3) No inspector shall be appointed under this clause without the approval of the Board of Education.'"—(*Mr. Alfred Hutton.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

"To omit Clause 4."—(*Mr. Channing.*)

Amendment negatived.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 31, after the word 'persons,' to insert the words, 'some of whom shall be women.'"—(*Mr. Bryce.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Sir J. Gorst 1125

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 32, after the word 'education,' to insert the words, 'Provided that the whole shall adequately represent the three branches of secondary, technical, and elementary education.'"—(*Mr. Evelyn Cecil.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Sir J. Gorst 1126

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 32, after the word 'education,' to insert the words, 'and appointed for periods to be stated in the Order.'"—(*Mr. Channing.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Sir J. Gorst 1126

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In Clause 4, page 2, line 35, to leave out 'by the Board of Education,' and insert, 'In manner to be provided by Order in Council.'"—(*Mr. Bryce.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 3, to leave out the words, 'before it is,' and insert the words, 'and unless within four weeks an Address has been presented by one or other of the said Houses, praying Her Majesty to withhold her consent from such Order, or any part thereof, then it shall be'—(*Sir Edward Clarke*)—instead thereof."

Question proposed, "That the words, 'before it is,' stand part of the Bill."

DISCUSSION :—

Sir J. Gorst 1127 *Viscount Cranborne* 1127

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be read a third time."

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DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Lewis (Flint Boroughs)</i>	1128	<i>Mr. Humphreys-Owen (Montgomery)</i> 1129
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Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time and passed, with an Amendment.

PUBLIC WORKS LOANS (REMISSION OF DEBTS) —Resolution reported,—“That it is expedient to authorise the Remission of certain Debts due to the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland from certain Boards of Guardians in Ireland, and from the Wicklow Harbour Commissioners, in pursuance of any Act of the present Session relating to Public Works Loans.” Resolution agreed to 1130
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Public Works (Loans) Bill —Considered in Committee, and reported; as amended, to be considered To-morrow 1130
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Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered; read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 1130
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Tancred's Charities Scheme Confirmation Bill —Considered in Committee, and reported, without Amendment; read the third time, and passed	... 1130
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Marriages Validity (No. 2) Bill [Lords]—Considered in Committee, and reported, without Amendment; read the third time, and passed, without Amendment 1130
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Manchester Canonries Bill [Lords]—Considered in Committee.

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 1 :—

Motion made, and Question proposed—

“That the Chairman do report Progress, and ask leave to sit again.”—
(*Mr. Galloway.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The First Lord of the Treasury</i>	<i>Mr. Tomlinson (Preston)</i>	... 1131
<i>(Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)</i>	<i>Mr. Harwood (Bolton)</i>	... 1131
<i>Mr. Galloway (Manchester, S.W.)</i>	<i>Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.)</i>	... 1132
<i>Mr. Lloyd-George (Carnarvon District)</i>	<i>Mr. Carvell Williams (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield)</i>	... 1132
	<i>Mr. Harwood</i>	... 1132

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 13; Noes, 97. (Division List, No. 326.)

Amendment proposed—

“In Clause 1, line 8, to leave out ‘2,’ and insert ‘1.’”—(*Mr. Lewis.*)

<i>The Solicitor-General (Sir R. B. Finlay, Inverness Burghs)</i> 1133
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Amendment negatived.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 10, to leave out the words ‘such purposes connected with the service and ministrations of the cathedral,’ and insert the words ‘making additional provisions for the cure of souls in parishes in the city of Manchester where such assistance is most required,’”—(*Mr. Galloway.*)

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Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Sir R. B. Finlay 1134

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 87 ; Noes, 18. (Division List, No. 327.)

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 14, to leave the words from the word 'determined,' to the end of the clause."—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Moss (Denbighshire, E.) 1135 *Mr. Ellis J. Griffith (Anglesey)*... 1136

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 82 ; Noes, 16. (Division List, No. 328.)

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill."

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Lewis 1137 *Mr. Harwood* 1137

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Bill reported without Amendment ; to be read the third time To-morrow.

Commons and Open Spaces Bill [Lords]—Considered in Committee, and reported, with Amendments ; as amended, to be considered To-morrow... 1137

Lincolnshire Coroners Bill [Lords]—Considered in Committee, and reported, with Amendments ; as amended, to be considered To-morrow 1138

Poor Law Acts Amendment Bill [Lords]—Considered in Committee, and reported, with Amendments and an Amended Title ; as amended, to be considered To-morrow... .. 1138

Inebriates Act (1898) Amendment Bill—As amended, considered ; read the third time, and passed 1138

Telegraph (Channel Islands) Bill [Lords]—Order for Committee read, and discharged ; Bill with drawn 1138

NAVY AND ARMY EXPENDITURE, 1897-8—Resolutions reported.

1. "That it appears by the Navy Appropriation Account for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1898, and the statement appended thereto, as follows, viz. :—

- (a) That the gross expenditure for certain Navy Services exceeded the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £595,246 2s. 1d., as shown in Column No. 1 of the Schedule hereto appended ; while the gross expenditure for other Navy Services fell short of the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £2,038,302 12s. 8d., as shown in Column No. 2 of the said appended Schedule, so that the gross actual expenditure for the whole of the Navy Services fell short of the gross estimated expenditure by the net sum of £1,443,056 10s. 7d.

- (b) That the receipts in aid of certain Navy Services fell short of the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £13,137 17s 8d., as shown in Column No. 3 of the said appended Schedule ; while the receipts in aid of other Navy Services exceeded the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £59,218 9s. 4d., as shown in Column No. 4 of the said appended Schedule ; so that the total actual receipts in aid of the Grants for Navy Services exceeded the total estimated receipts by the net sum of £46,080 11s 8d.
- (c) That the resulting differences between the Exchequer Grants for Naval Services and the net expenditure are as follows, viz. :—

		£	s.	d.
Total Surpluses	...	2,041,004	0	5
Total Deficits	...	551,866	18	2
Net Surpluses	...	£1,489,137	2	3"

2. "That the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have temporarily authorised the application, in reduction of the net charge on Exchange Grants for certain Navy Services, of the whole of the sums received in excess of the estimated Appropriations in Aid, in respect of the same Services ; and have also temporarily authorised the application of so much of the said total surpluses on certain Grants for Navy Services as is necessary to cover the said total deficits on other Grants for Navy Services,"

3. "That the application of such sums be sanctioned."

(See Schedule A.)

4. "That it appears by the Army Appropriation Account for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1898, and the statement appended thereto, as follows, viz. :—

- (a) That the gross expenditure for certain Army Services exceeded the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £151,696 5s 6d., as shown in Column No. 1 of the Schedule hereto appended ; while the gross expenditure for other Army Services fell short of the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £167,041 2s. 10d., as shown in Column No. 2 of the said appended Schedule ; so that the gross actual expenditure for the whole of the Army Services fell short of the gross estimated expenditure by the net sum of £15,344 17s 4d.
- (b) That the receipts in aid of certain Army Services fell short of the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £46,536 1s. 11d., as shown in Column No. 3 of the said appended Schedule ; while the receipts in aid of other Army Services exceeded the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £133,300 13s. 11d., as shown in Column No. 4 of the said appended Schedule ; so that the total actual receipts in aid of the Grants for Army Services exceeded the total estimated receipts by the net sum of £86,764 12s.
- (c) That the resulting differences between the Exchequer Grants for Army Services and the net expenditure are as follows, viz. :—

		£	s.	d.
Total Surpluses	...	235,876	18	1
Total Deficits	...	133,767	8	9
Net Surplus	...	£102,109	9	4."

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5. "That the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have temporarily authorised the application, in reduction of the net charge on Exchequer Grants for certain Army Services, of the whole of the sums received in excess of the estimated Appropriations in Aid, in respect of the same Services; and have also temporarily authorised the application of so much of the said total surpluses on certain Grants for Army Services as is necessary to cover the said total deficits on other Grants for Army Services."

6. "That the application of such sums be sanctioned."

SCHEDULE A.

Number of Vote.	Navy Services, 1897-98. Votes.	Gross Expenditure.		Appropriations in Aid.	
		Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure.	Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure.	Deficiencies of Actual as compared with Esti- mated Receipts.	Surpluses of Actual as compared with Esti- mated Receipts.
		1	2.	3.	4.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1 -	Wages, &c., of Officers, Seamen, and Boys, Coast Guard, and Royal Marines -	...	78,418 3 7	...	9,034 16 3
2 -	Victualling and Clothing for the Navy -	...	18,436 8 9	12,023 18 9	
3 -	Medical Establishments and Services -	...	4,557 7 7	...	1,875 10 3
4 -	Martial Law -	734 0 8	...	10 16 5	
5 -	Educational Services -	...	1,788 17 0	838 15 8	
6 -	Scientific Services -	...	299 2 3	...	685 4 6
7 -	Royal Naval Reserves -	...	22,298 14 8	...	18 17 2
8 -	Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, &c. :				
Sec. 1	Personnel -	59,255 16 3	...	57 1 4	
Sec. 2	Materiel -	348,753 17 10	...	...	31,655 18 8
Sec. 3	Contract Work -	...	1,884,638 15 7	...	1,712 10 0
9 -	Naval Armaments -	62,153 8 7	...	...	7,757 7 9
10 -	Works, Buildings, and Repairs at Home and Abroad -	..	27,865 3 3	...	2,255 4 0
11 -	Miscellaneous Effective Services -	103,857 5 2	...	...	4,211 4 5
12 -	Admiralty Office -	1,068 4 0	...	...	15 9 9
13 -	Half-Pay, Reserved and Retired Pay -	1,754 4 1	...	58 10 0	
14 -	Naval and Marine Pen- sions, Gratuities, and Compassionate Allow- ances -	10,071 6 7	...	9 15 6	
15 -	Civil Pensions and Gra- tuities -	4,780 3 9	...	...	14 6 7
16 -	Additional Naval Force for Service in Austra- lasian Waters -	42 16 0	...	139 0 0	
	Amount written off as irrecoverable -	2,574 19 2			
		595,246 2 1	2,038,302 12 8	13,137 17 8	59,218 9 4

Net Surplus, £1,443,056 10 7 Net Surplus, £46,080 11 8

Surplus surrendered to the Exchequer ... £1,489,137 2 3

SCHEDULE B.

No. of Vote.	Army Services, 1897-98. Votes.	Gross Expenditure.		Appropriations in Aid.	
		Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure.	Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure.	Deficiencies of Actual as compared with Esti- mated Re- ceipts.	Surpluses of Actual as compared with Esti- mated Re- ceipts.
		1.	2.	3.	4.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1	Pay, &c., of Army (General Staff, Regiments, Reserve, and Departments) ...	52,171 3 11	...	...	3,572 10 4
2	Medical Establishments : Pay, &c. ...	6,211 18 10	...	...	170 14 2
3	Militia : Pay, Extra Pay, Bounty, &c. ...	...	12,804 1 3	...	2,191 19 3
4	Yeomanry Cavalry : Pay and Allowances ...	...	475 11 9	...	3 0 0
5	Volunteer Corps : Pay and Allowances ...	...	1,378 12 7	...	180 9 6
6	Transport and Remounts ...	23,350 4 0	...	...	11,223 15 7
7	Provisions, Forage, and other Supplies ...	40,856 10 5	...	...	11,534 4 3
8	Clothing Establishments, and Services ...	14,742 3 2	...	15,554 12 7	
9	Warlike and other Stores : Supply and Repair ...	...	99,201 19 2	...	90,970 12 4
10	Works, Buildings, and Repairs : Cost, including Staff for Engineer Services ...	...	37,643 13 4	30,864 4 4	
11	Establishments for Military Education ...	...	1,281 17 3	...	1,476 7 6
12	Miscellaneous Effective Services ...	5,044 9 8	...	...	557 14 6
13	War Office : Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges ...	...	3,336 13 11	...	140 0 11
14	Non-effective Charges for Officers, &c. ...	6,541 15 6	...	...	8,296 2 4
15	Non-effective Charges for Men, &c. ...	...	10,918 13 7	...	2,983 3 3
16	Superannuation, Compensation, and Compassionate Allowances ...	2,539 13 7	...	117 5 0	
	Balance irrecoverable ...	238 6 5			
		151,696 5 6	167,041 2 10	46,536 1 11	133,300 10 11

Net Surplus, £15,344 17 4 Net Surplus, £86,764 12 0

Surplus surrendered to the Exchequer ... £102,109 9 4

Mr. Hanbury 1138

Resolutions agreed to

In pursuance of the Order of the House of the 17th day of July last, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

House adjourned accordingly at half-past Two of the clock.

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COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 2ND AUGUST 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Bootle Corporation Bill—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to .. 1145**Clyde Navigation Bill** [Lords]—As amended, considered ; a clause added ; Amendments made.Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Dr. Farquharson.*)

[Queen's Consent signified.]—Bill read the third time accordingly, and passed, with Amendments 1145

Salford Corporation Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered ; Amendments made.Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Dr. Farquharson.*)

[Queen's Consent signified.]—Bill read the third time accordingly, and passed, with Amendments 1145

North Eastern and Hull and Barnsley Railways (Joint Docks) Bill [Lords]—Order read for resuming Adjourned Debate on Amendment proposed [1st August], on Consideration, as amended ; and which Amendment was, in page 21, line 37, to leave out from the word "Hull," to the word "provided," in page 22, line 7.—(*Sir Albert Rollit.*)

Question again proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Sir Albert Rollit (Islington, S.) 1145

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In Clause 21, page 21, line 37, to leave out from 'Hull' to 'provided' in page 22, line 7 ; and in page 22, line 12, at end to add, 'Provided also that the Railway and Canal Commission shall have power to make, within the limits and subject to the provisions of this section, rules for the purpose of regulating the user of the said railway.'"—(*Sir Albert Rollit.*)

Agreed to.

Ordered, That Standing Order 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Dr. Farquharson.*)

[Queen's Consent signified.]—Bill read the third time accordingly, and passed, with Amendments 1146

Glasgow Corporation Telephones Bill—Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn 1146**Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 20) Bill**—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to 1146**Education Department Provisional Order Confirmation (London) Bill** [Lords]—As amended, considered,

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DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. E. Flower</i> (<i>Bradford, W.</i>)	1146	<i>The Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education</i> (<i>Sir J. Gorst, Cambridge University</i>)	1148
<i>Mr. Pickersgill</i> (<i>Bethnal Green, S.W.</i>)	1147	<i>Mr. J. G. Talbot</i> (<i>Oxford University</i>)	1148

Objection being taken, further proceedings on Consideration, as amended, stood adjourned.

Bill, as amended, to be further considered To-morrow.

National Telephone Company (No. 1) Bill —Order [9th March] that the Bill be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn	1149
National Telephone Company (No. 2) Bill —Order [9th March] that the Bill be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn	1149
Telegraph Act (1892) Amendment Bill —Order [6th March] that the Bill be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn	1149

PETITIONS.

Board of Education Bill —Petition from Bristol, for alteration ; to lie upon the Table	1149
POOR LAW AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1845 —Petition from Glamis, for alteration of Law ; to lie upon the Table	1150
STATUE OF OLIVER CROMWELL —Petition from London and other places, against erection on public land ; to lie upon the Table	1150
Telegraphs (Telephonic Communication, &c.) Bill —Petition from Bristol, against ; to lie upon the Table	1150

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD —Copy presented, of the Twenty-eighth Annual Report of the Local Government Board, 1898-9 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	1150
LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD —Copy presented, of Supplement of the Twenty-eighth Annual Report of the Local Government Board, 1898-9, containing the Report of the Medical Officer for 1898-9 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	1150
NATIONAL EDUCATION (IRELAND) —Copy presented, of Sixty-fifth Report of the Commissioners, being for the year 1898-9 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	1150
EVICCTIONS (IRELAND) —Copy presented, of Return of Evictions in Ireland for the quarter ended 30th June, 1899 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	1150

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EAST INDIA CANTONMENT REGULATIONS—Copy presented, of Rules and applied Enactments issued by the Government of India, 16th June, 1899 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1150

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE—Ninth Report brought up, and read; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1150

PUBLIC BUSINESS.

Manchester Canonries Bill—[THIRD READING.]—Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid.) 1157

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed without Amendment.

Public Works (Loans) Bill—As amended, considered.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid.)... .. 1157

Bill read the third time, and passed.

Colonial Loans Bill—Considered in Committee.

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 6, to leave out the words, 'the Colonies,' and insert the words, 'Barbados and St. Vincent.'"—(*Captain Sinclair.*)

Question again proposed, "That the words, 'the Colonies,' stand part of the clause."

DISCUSSION :

The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.)... .. 1152
Captain Sinclair (Forfarshire) ... 1152

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 7, after 'Act,' to insert 'over the finances of which the Secretary of State for the Colonies, as representing Her Majesty's Government, has complete control.'"—(*Captain Sinclair.*)

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. Buchanan (Aberdeen-shire E.) 1152
Mr. J. Chamberlain 1153

Amendment negatived.

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Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 15, to leave out the words ‘two and three quarters,’ and insert the words ‘three and one-half.’”—(*Mr. J. H. Roberts.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. J. Chamberlain</i> ...	1155	<i>The Chancellor of the Exchequer</i>	
<i>Mr. Labouchere (Northampton)</i> ...	1159	(<i>Sir M. Hicks-Beach (Bristol, W.)</i> ...	1161
<i>Mr. Monk (Gloucester)</i> ...	1160	<i>Mr. Buchanan</i> ...	1162

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

‘In page 1, line 16, to leave out the words ‘and the Secretary of State.’”—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)

Question proposed, “That the words ‘and the Secretary of State’ stand part of the clause.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir M. Hicks-Beach</i> ...	1163	<i>Sir M. Hicks-Beach</i> ...	1164
<i>Captain Sinclair</i> ...	1163	<i>Mr. Perks (Lincolnshire, Louth)</i> ...	1164

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 124 ; Noes, 27. (Division List, No. 329.)

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 18, after ‘and,’ to insert ‘together with the annual interest accruing thereon.’”—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

<i>Sir M. Hicks-Beach</i>	1165
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Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 19, to leave out ‘fifty’ and insert ‘thirty.’”—(*Mr. J. H. Roberts.*)

Question proposed, “That the word ‘fifty’ stand part of the clause.”

<i>Sir M. Hicks-Beach</i>	1166
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Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Question proposed, “That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Buchanan</i> ...	1166	<i>Sir H. H. Fowler (Wolverhampton, E.)</i> ...	1168
<i>Mr. Labouchere</i> ...	1166	<i>Mr. Buchanan</i> ...	1169
<i>Captain Sinclair (Forfarshire)</i> ...	1167		

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 123 ; Noes, 30. (Division List, No. 330.)

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Clause 2 :—

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 25, to leave out from ‘made’ to end of line 28, and insert, ‘has passed an Act or Ordinance which provides.’”—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.”

DISCUSSION :—

Sir M. Hicks-Beach... 1171 *Mr. Buchanan* ... 1171

Amendment negatived.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 27, at end to insert, ‘(b) for securing the loan as a first charge upon any works which may be created out of the proceeds of the said loan, and for applying the surplus revenues of such works in repayment of the loans.’”—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. J. Chamberlain ... 1172 *Mr. Caldwell* ... 1173

Amendment negatived.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, line 17, to leave out the words ‘the Treasury and the Secretary of State,’ and insert the word ‘Parliament’—(*Mr. Herbert Roberts*)—instead thereof.”

Question proposed, “That the words ‘the Treasury and the Secretary of State’ stand part of the clause.”

Sir M. Hicks-Beach ... 1174

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 116 ; Noes, 47. (Division List, No. 331.)

Clause agreed to.

Schedule :—

Amendment proposed—

“In page 3, line 6, to leave out the words from the word ‘Gold’ to ‘£98,000,’ both inclusive.”—(*Mr. Labouchere.*)

Question proposed, ‘That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Schedule.’

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. J. Chamberlain ... 1176 *Mr. Buchanan* ... 1181
Mr. Labouchere ... 1179 *Mr. Lewis (Flint Boroughs)* ... 1182
Captain Sinclair ... 1180

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 140 ; Noes, 43. (Division List, No. 332.)

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Amendment proposed—

“In page 3, line 8, to leave out the words from the word ‘Niger’ to ‘£43,50,’ inclusive.”—(*Mr. Labouchere.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Schedule.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. J. Chamberlain</i>	...	1186	<i>Mr. Lewis</i>	1186
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Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 148 ; Noes, 39. (Division List, No. 333.)

Amendment proposed—

“In page 3, line 9, to leave out the words from the word ‘Jamaica,’ to ‘£40,000,’ in line 13, both inclusive.”—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Schedule.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. J. Chamberlain</i>	...	1189	<i>Captain Sinclair</i>	...	...	1192
<i>Mr. Labouchere</i>	...	1190	<i>Mr. Perks</i>	...	...	1192

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 158 ; Noes, 38. (Division List, No. 334.)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Captain Sinclair</i>	...	1195	<i>Mr. J. Chamberlain</i>	...	1197
<i>Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman</i>					
<i>(Stirling Burghs)</i>	...	1195			

Amendment proposed—

“In page 3, line 14, to leave out the words from the word ‘Lagos,’ inclusive, to the end of the Schedule.”—(*Mr. Labouchere.*)

Question put, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Schedule.”

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 151 ; Noes, 38. (Division List, No. 335.)

Schedule agreed to.

Bill reported, without Amendment ; read the third time, and passed.

Poor Law Acts Amendment Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered ; an Amendment made ; Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments ... 1199

Commons and Open Spaces Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered ; Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments ... 1199

Expiring Laws Continuance Bill—Considered in Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

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Schedule :—

Amendment proposed—

“ In page 4, to leave out lines 29 and 30.”—(*Mr. Dillon.*)

Question proposed, “ That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Schedule.”

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The Chief Secretary for Ireland</i>	<i>Mr. Dillon</i>	1203
(<i>Mr. G. W. Balfour, Leeds,</i>	<i>Mr. Clancy (Dublin County, N.)</i>	1204
<i>Central</i>)		1202

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 118 ; Noes, 42. (Division List, No. 336.)

Schedule agreed to.

Bill reported, without Amendment ; read the third time, and passed.

SUPPLY—[28TH JULY] REPORT—Order read for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question [31st July], “ That this House doth agree with the Committee in the Eighth Resolution, ‘ That a sum, not exceeding £14,400, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the office of Her Majesty’s Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues, and of the office of Land Revenue Records and Inrolments.’ ”

Question again proposed.

DEBATE RESUMED :—

<i>Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucester-</i>	<i>Mr. Lewis (Flint Boroughs)</i> ...	1206
<i>shire, Forest of Dean)</i> ...	<i>Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.)</i> ...	1207
<i>The Financial Secretary to the</i>	<i>Mr. Hanbury</i>	1207
<i>Treasury (Mr. Hanbury,</i>		
<i>Preston)</i>		1206

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolution agreed to.

SUPPLY—[31ST JULY.]—Resolutions reported.

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES, 1899–1900.

CLASS I.

1. “ That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £65,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1900, in respect of sundry Public Buildings in Great Britain, not provided for on other Votes.”

CLASS III.

2. “ That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £500, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1900, for certain Miscellaneous Legal Expenses, including Grants in Aid.”

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CLASS V.

3. "That a sum, not exceeding £367,801 (including a Supplementary sum of £75,000), be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1900, for sundry Colonial Services, including certain Grants in Aid."

CLASS VII.

4. "That a sum, not exceeding £23,175 (including a Supplementary sum of £9,175), be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1900, for the Salaries and other Expenses of Temporary Commissions, Committees, and Special Inquiries, including a Grant in Aid of the expenditure of the Congested Districts Board (Ireland)." Resolutions agreed to 1208

Lincolnshire Coroners Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered; read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 1208

Land Charges Bill [Lords]—Order for Second Reading read, and discharged; Bill withdrawn 1208

In pursuance of the Order of the House of the 17th day of July last, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

House adjourned accordingly at ten minutes before Seven of the clock.

LORDS: THURSDAY, 3RD AUGUST 1899.

SAT FIRST—The Earl of Winchilsea and Nottingham sat first in Parliament after the death of his brother 1209

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Hastings Harbour Bill [Lords]; **Oystermouth Railway or Tramroad Bill** [Lords]—Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to 1209

Newcastle-upon-Tyne Tramways and Improvement Bill—Read the third time, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 1209

London Improvements Bill; Harrow and Uxbridge Railway Bill; Uxbridge and Rickmansworth Railway Bill—Read the third time, with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bills passed, and returned to the Commons 1209

Dublin Corporation Bill—Commons Amendments, and reasons for disagreeing to several of the Lords Amendments, considered (according to Order.)

Moved, "That this House do not insist upon the first Amendment, to which the Commons have disagreed."—(*The Lord Tweedmouth.*)

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DISCUSSION :—

<i>The Duke of Northumberland</i>	1218	<i>The Chairman of Committees (The Earl of Morley)</i>	1227
<i>The Earl of Kimberley</i>	...	1224			

On Question, their Lordships divided :—Contents, 7 ; Not-Contents, 55.

The said Amendments insisted on accordingly : The remaining Amendments insisted on ; and the Commons Amendments and consequential Amendments disagreed to ; A Committee appointed to prepare reasons for the Lords insisting on their Amendments, and for disagreeing to the Commons Amendments and consequential Amendments : The Committee to meet forthwith : Report from the Committee of the reasons prepared by them read, and agreed to ; and a message sent to the Commons to return the said Bill, with the reasons.

Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 20) Bill ; Bootle Corporation Bill ; Dublin Corporation (Markets) Bill ; London County Council (General Powers) Bill ; London County Council (Money) Bill—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to ... 1229

Clyde Navigation Bill [Lords]—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments : The said Amendments considered, and agreed to ... 1229

Fylde Water Board Bill [Lords] ; **North-Eastern and Hull and Barnsley Railways (Joint Dock) Bill** [Lords] ; **Salford Corporation Bill** [Lords] ; **Wakefield Corporation Bill** [Lords]—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments ... 1229

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

ARMY (MEDICAL DEPARTMENT)—Report for the year 1898 ; Volume XL. ... 1229

COLONIES (ANNUAL)—No. 264. Gambia : Annual Report for 1898 ; No. 265. St. Helena : Annual Report for 1898 ... 1229

INDIA (CANTONMENT REGULATIONS)—Rules and applied enactments issued by the Government of India, 16th June, 1899 ... 1229

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD—1. Twenty-eighth Annual Report, 1898–99 ; 2. Supplement containing the Report of the Medical Officer for 1898–99... 1229

INEBRIATES ACTS, 1879 AND 1888—Nineteenth Report of the Inspector of Retreats under the Inebriates Acts, 1879 and 1888, for the year 1898 ... 1229

REFORMATORY AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS (GREAT BRITAIN)—Forty-second Report for the year 1898, of Her Majesty's Inspector of Reformatory and Industrial Schools ... 1230

PRISONS (ENGLAND AND WALES)—Report of the Commissioners of Prisons and the Directors of Convict Prisons, for the year ended 31st March, 1899 ... 1230

POLICE (METROPOLIS)—Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, for the year 1898 ... 1230

EVICTIONS (IRELAND)—Return of evictions in Ireland, for the quarter ended 30th June, 1899 ... 1230

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NATIONAL EDUCATION (IRELAND)—Annual Report of the Commissioners, for the year 1898–99. Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table	1230
COUNTY TREASURERS (IRELAND) (FEE FUND)—Account for the year ended 25th March, 1899; laid before the House [pursuant to Act], and ordered to lie on the Table	1230
Baths and Washhouses Acts Amendment Bill—To be read the second time To-morrow—(<i>The Lord Harris</i>)... ..	1230
Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Bill; Sale of Food and Drugs Bill; Improvement of Land Bill—Amendments reported [according to Order]: then Standing Order No. XXXIX. considered [according to Order], and dispensed with. Bills read the third time, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons	1230
Manchester Canonries Bill [Lords]; Marriages Validity (No. 2) Bill [Lords]—Returned from the Commons agreed to	1230
Commons and Open Spaces Bill [Lords]—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments... ..	1230
Board of Education Bill [Lords] (No. 202); Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Bill [Lords] (No. 203); Poor Law Acts Amendment Bill [Lords] (No. 204)—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments; the said Amendments to be printed, and to be considered To-morrow	1231
Lincolnshire Coroners Bill [Lords]—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments; the said Amendments to be printed. (No. 205.)	1231
Metropolitan Police Bill—[SECOND READING]—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.	
<i>Lord Belper</i>	1231
Bill read a second time (according to Order); Committee negatived; then Standing Order No. 39 considered (according to Order), and dispensed with; Bill read the third time, and passed	1232
Public Libraries Bill [Lords]—Amendments reported (according to Order)	1232
Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Bill—Amendment reported (according to Order). Formal Amendments agreed to.	

Clause 9 :—

Amendment moved—

“To leave out Clause 9, and insert as a new clause :

“1. If before the expiration of seven days after the introduction of Confirmation Bill under the immediately preceding section in the House in which it originates, a petition be presented against any Order comprised in the Bill, it shall be lawful for any Member to give notice that he intends to move that the Bill shall be referred to a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament. Any such motion may be debated on the Second Reading of the Bill, and immediately after the Bill is read a second time the question thereon shall be put without Amendment or further debate. If such motion is carried, the Bill shall stand referred to a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament, and the opponent shall, subject to the practice of Parliament, be allowed to appear and oppose by himself, his counsel, agent, and witnesses; and counsel, agents, and witnesses may be heard in support of the Order. The Joint Committee shall hear and determine any question of *locus standi*.

“2. The report of the Joint Committee shall, subject to Standing Orders, be laid before both Houses of Parliament.

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"3. The Joint Committee may, by a majority, award costs, and such costs may be taxed and recovered, and shall be secured in the manner provided in the Parliamentary Costs Act, 1865, subject to any necessary modifications.

"4. If no such motion as in Sub-section 1 of this section mentioned is carried, the Bill shall be deemed to have passed the stage of Committee, and shall be ordered to be considered as if reported by a Committee.

"When such Bill has been read a third time and passed in the first House of Parliament, the like proceedings shall, subject to Standing Orders, be taken in the second House of Parliament."—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The Earl of Morley</i>	... 1233	<i>Lord Tweedmouth</i>	... ... 1234
<i>The Secretary for Scotland</i>		<i>The Earl of Morley</i>	... ... 1234
<i>(Lord Balfour of Burleigh)</i>	1233		

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 11 :—

Amendment moved—

"To leave out Clause 11, and insert, as a new clause :

"(1) County Councils shall have the same powers and be subject to the same restrictions in regard to proceedings under or in pursuance of this Act as they now have or are subject to under the provisions of Section 56 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889, in regard to Private Bills or Confirmation Bills.

"(2) Town councils and burgh commissioners shall have the same powers and be subject to the same restrictions in regard to proceedings under or in pursuance of this Act as they now have or are subject to in regard to Private Bills or Confirmation Bills.

"(3) In addition, any county council or town council or burgh commissioners connected with the locality to which any draft Provisional Order referred to Commissioners under this Act relates, may make a report to the Commissioners respecting the provisions of the draft order and the Commissioners shall consider the recommendations contained in the Report."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 17 :—

Amendments moved—

"In line 35, to leave out 'chairman' and insert 'Secretary for Scotland'; and in line 39, to leave out 'chairman' and insert 'Secretary for Scotland'; and leave out from 'if' to 'who' in page 10, line 2, and insert 'he thinks fit to refer such objection to the Commissioners.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 18 :—

Amendment moved—

"In line 10, to leave out from '1873' to 'and' in line 12."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Bill to be read the third time To-morrow ; and to be printed as amended.
(No. 206.)

Small Houses (Acquisition of Ownership) Bill—[THIRD READING]—Order of the Day for the Third Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read the third time."—(*The Earl of Selborne.*)

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DISCUSSION :—

<i>The Earl of Wemyss</i>	... 1237	<i>The Earl of Wemyss</i>	... 1237
<i>The Earl of Selborne</i>	... 1237		

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read the third time accordingly, with the Amendments ; further Amendments made ; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

Companies Bill [Lords]—[THIRD READING]—Order of the Day for Third Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read the third time."—(*The Earl of Dudley.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The Lord Chancellor (The Earl of Halsbury)</i>	... 1238	<i>The Earl of Kimberley</i>	... 1240
		<i>The Earl of Dudley</i>	... 1241

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read the third time accordingly, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Royal Niger Company Bill—House in Committee (according to Order) ; Bill reported without Amendment ; Standing Committee negatived ; and Bill to be read the third time To-morrow.

Electric Lighting (Clauses) Bill—Read the third time (according to Order), and passed.

Land Tax Commissioners Names Bill—[SECOND READING]—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read the second time."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Lord Stanley of Alderley</i>	... 1242	<i>Lord Balfour of Burleigh</i>	... 1242
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On Question, agreed to.

Bill read the second time accordingly ; Committee negatived ; and Bill to be read the third time To-morrow.

Naval Works Bill—Read a second time (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow, and Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered in order to its being dispensed with ... 1242

Patriotic Fund Bill—[SECOND READING]—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read a second time." — (*The Marquess of Lansdowne.*)

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read the second time, accordingly ; Committee negatived : and Bill to be read the third time To-morrow ... 1242

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Reserve Forces Bill—[SECOND READING]—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read a second time."—(*The Marquess of Lansdowne.*)

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read a second time (according to Order) ; Committee negatived ; and Bill to be read the third time To-morrow... .. 1243

Telegraphs (Telephonic Communication, &c.) Bill—[SECOND READING]—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read a second time."—(*The Duke of Norfolk.*)

Lord Harris 1245

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read a second time, accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow, and Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered in order to its being dispensed with... .. 1248

Military Works Bill—[SECOND READING]—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read a second time."—(*The Marquess of Lansdowne.*)

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read a second time, accordingly ; Committee negatived, and Bill to be read the third time To-morrow... .. 1248

VALUATIONS AND ASSESSMENTS—Motion made, for a Return showing :—

- (a) The rateable value of (1) lands ; (2) buildings ; (3) railways ; and (4) all other kinds of property, according to the valuation lists or other record of assessment last in force during the year ended Lady-day, 1870.
- (b) The gross estimated rental and rateable value of (1) lands ; (2) buildings ; (3) railways ; and (4) all other kinds of rateable property, according to the valuation lists in force in the Metropolis on the 6th day of April, 1894, and in the rest of England and Wales at Lady-day, 1894, and where there were no such list in force, according to the last poor rate made before such dates respectively.
- (c.) The gross estimated rental and rateable value of (1) lands, distinguishing agricultural land from other lands ; (2) buildings ; (3) railways ; and (4) all other kinds of rateable property, according to the valuation lists in force in the Metropolis on the 6th day of April, 1899, and in the rest of England and Wales at Lady-day, 1899, and where there were no such lists in force, according to the last poor rate made, before such dates respectively.—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, agreed to ; Return ordered to be laid before the House ... 1256

HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE, CHANCERY DIVISION (ADDITIONAL JUDGE)—

Moved, "That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty, representing that the state of business in the High Court of Justice is such as to require the appointment of an additional judge ; and praying that Her Majesty will be graciously pleased to appoint a new judge of the said High Court in the Chancery Division thereof, in pursuance of the eighteenth Section of the Appellate Jurisdiction Act, 1876."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

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DISCUSSION :—

<i>Lord Coleridge</i>	1259	<i>The Earl of Halsbury</i>	1261
<i>Lord Teynham</i>	1260		
On Question, agreed to ; and the said Address ordered to be presented to Her Majesty by the Lords with White Staves.			
Colonial Loans Bill —Brought from the Commons ; read the first time ; to be printed ; to be read the second time To-morrow ; and Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered in order to its being dispensed with.—(<i>The Earl of Selborne.</i>) (No. 207.)			
			1262
Expiring Laws Continuance Bill —Brought from the Commons ; read the first time ; to be printed ; and to be read the second time To-morrow.—(<i>The Marquess of Salisbury.</i>) (No. 208.)			
			1262
Inebriates Act (1898) Amendment Bill —Brought from the Commons ; read the first time ; to be printed ; and to be read the second time To-morrow ; and Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered in order to its being dispensed with.—(<i>The Lord Belper.</i>) (No. 209.)			
			1262
Public Works (Loans) Bill —Brought from the Commons ; read the first time ; to be printed ; and to be read the second time To-morrow.—(<i>The Marquess of Salisbury.</i>) (No. 210.)			
			1262
Tancred's Charities Scheme Confirmation Bill —Brought from the Commons ; read the first time ; to be printed ; and to be read the second time To-morrow.—(<i>The Lord Churchill.</i>) (No. 211.)			
			1262
Commons and Open Spaces Bill [Lords]—Commons Amendments considered (on Motion), and agreed to			
			1262

House adjourned at half-past Seven of the clock.

COMMONS : THURSDAY, 3RD AUGUST 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Bexhill and Rotherfield Railway Bill —Lords Amendment considered, and agreed to	1263
London and South-Western Railway Bill [Lords] ; Manchester Corporation Tramways Bill [Lords] ; Paisley and Barrhead District Railway Bill [Lords]—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments	1263
Rochdale Canal Bill [Lords]—Read the third time, and passed, with an Amendment	1263
Wolverhampton Corporation Bill [Lords] ; Workington Corporation Bill [Lords]—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments	1263
Birmingham, North Warwickshire, and Stratford-upon-Avon Railway Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered ; Amendments made. Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(<i>Dr. Farquharson.</i>) Bill read the third time accordingly, and passed, with Amendments	1263

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Southport and Lytham Tramroad Bill [Lords]—Ordered, That, in the case of the Southport and Lytham Tramroad Bill [Lords], as amended, Standing Orders 84, 214, 215, and 239 be suspended, and that the Bill be now taken into consideration provided amended prints shall have been previously deposited.—(*Dr. Farquharson.*) Bill considered accordingly. Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Dr. Farquharson.*) Bill read the third time accordingly, and passed... .. 1263

PRIVATE BILLS—Ordered, That Standing Orders 220 and 246 relating to Private Bills be suspended for the remainder of the Session; That, as regards Private Bills already returned by the House of Lords with Amendments, such Amendments be now considered; That, as regards Private Bills to be returned by the House of Lords with Amendments, such Amendments to be considered forthwith; That, when it is intended to propose any Amendments thereto, a copy of such Amendments shall be deposited in the Private Bill Office, and notice given on the day on which the Bill shall have been returned from the Lords.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*) 1264

Belfast Corporation Bill; City and Brixton Railway Bill; Gateshead and District Tramways Bill; London, Walthamstow, and Epping Forest Railway Bill; West Metropolitan Railway Bill—Lords Amendments considered accordingly, and agreed to 1264

Education Department Provisional Order Confirmation (London) Bill [Lords]—As amended, further considered.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 4, in Amendment inserted in Committee, in line 2, after the word ‘Orders,’ to insert the word ‘previously.’”—(*Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.*)

Question proposed, “That the word ‘previously’ be there inserted.”

DISCUSSION :—

The Vice-President of the Committee of the Council on Education (Sir John Gorst, Cambridge University) 1265
Mr. Flower (Bradford, W.) 1266

Mr. Pickersgill (Bethnal Green, S.W.) 1267
Lord Hugh Cecil (Greenwich) ... 1267
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee (Bethnal Green, N.E.) ... 1267

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Bill to be read the third time To-morrow.

London Water (Welsh Reservoirs and Works) Bill—Order [13th March] That the London Water (Welsh Reservoirs and Works) Bill be read a second time, read and discharged. Bill withdrawn.—(*Dr. Farquharson.*) 1268

PETITIONS.

POOR LAW AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1845—Petitions for alteration of Law; from Castleton, Fodderty, and Kennethmont; to lie upon the Table 1268

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

POLICE (METROPOLIS)—Copy presented,—of Report of the Commissioners of Police for the Metropolis for 1898 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table	1268
REFORMATORY AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS (GREAT BRITAIN)—Copy presented,—of Forty-second Report of the Inspector for 1898 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table	1268
INEBRIATES ACTS, 1879 AND 1888—Copy presented,—of Nineteenth Report of the Inspector of Retreats, for the year 1898 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table	1268
PRISONS (ENGLAND AND WALES)—Copy presented,—of Report of the Commissioners of Prisons and the Directors of Convict Prisons for the year ended 31st March, 1899 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table	1268
REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE (ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND IRELAND)—Return presented,—relative thereto [ordered 18th April; <i>Mr. Lough</i>]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 317.)	1268
IMPERIAL REVENUE (COLLECTION AND EXPENDITURE) (GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND)—Return presented,—relative thereto [ordered 18th April; <i>Mr. Lough</i>]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 318.)	1269
POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS (REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE)—Return presented,—relative thereto [ordered 25th July; <i>Mr. Hanbury</i>]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 319.)	1269
POST OFFICE (REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE)—Return presented,—relative thereto [ordered 25th July; <i>Mr. Hanbury</i>]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 320.)	1269
TAXES AND IMPOSTS—Return presented,—relative thereto [ordered 20th April; <i>Mr. Goddard</i>]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 321.)	1269
VAGRANT CHILDREN RELIEVED—Return presented,—relative thereto [ordered 16th March; <i>Mr. Muddison</i>]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 322.)	1269
LONDON (EQUALISATION OF RATES) ACT, 1894 (ACCOUNTS UNDER SECTION 1 (7) OF THE ACT)—Return presented,—relative thereto [ordered 21st July; <i>Mr. T. W. Russell</i>]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 323.)	1269
COUNTY TREASURERS' FEE FUND (IRELAND)—Account presented,—for the year ended 25th March, 1899 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table	1269
ARMY (MEDICAL DEPARTMENT)—Copy presented,—of Report for the year 1898, Volume XL. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table	1269
COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL)—Copy presented,—of Report No. 264 (Gambia, Annual Report for 1898) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table	1269
COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL)—Copy presented,—of Report No. 265 (St. Helena, Annual Report for 1898) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table	1269

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PAPERS LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE—1. Adjournment Motions under Standing Order No. 17,—Return relative thereto [ordered 1st August; <i>Dr. Farquharson</i>]; to be printed. (No. 324);	
2. Closure of Debate (Standing Order No. 25),—Return relative thereto [ordered 1st August; <i>Dr. Farquharson</i>]; to be printed. (No. 325);	
3. Divisions of the House,—Return relative thereto [ordered 1st August; <i>Dr. Farquharson</i>]; to be printed;	
4. Private Bills and Private Business,—Return relative thereto [ordered 1st August; <i>Dr. Farquharson</i>]; to be printed;	
5. Public Bills,—Return relative thereto [ordered 1st August; <i>Dr. Farquharson</i>]; to be printed;	
6. Public Petitions,—Return relative thereto [ordered 1st August; <i>Dr. Farquharson</i>]; to be printed;	
7. Select Committees,—Return relative thereto [ordered 1st August; <i>Dr. Farquharson</i>]; to be printed;	
8. Sittings of the House,—Return relative thereto [ordered 1st August; <i>Dr. Farquharson</i>]; to be printed;	
9. Business of the House (Days Occupied by Government and by Private Members),—Return relative thereto [ordered 1st August; <i>Dr. Farquharson</i>]; to be printed.	
(No. 326)	1270

COUNTY COURTS (PLAINTS AND SITTINGS)—Address for “Returns from every County Court in England and Wales of the total number of Plaints, &c., entered in each Court from the 1st day of January to the 31st day of December, 1898, both days inclusive, distinguishing those not exceeding £20, those above £20 and not exceeding £50, and those by agreement over £50.”

“And of the Sittings of the County Courts in England and Wales holden before the Judges of such Courts in the year 1898 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 385, of Session 1898).”—(*Mr. Jesse Collings*) ... 1270

TRAMWAYS (STREET AND ROAD)—Return ordered,—“of Street and Road Tramways authorised by Parliament, showing the amount of Capital authorised, paid up, and expended; the length of Tramway authorised, and the length open for the public conveyance of passengers, down to the 30th day of June, 1899; the gross Receipts, working Expenditure, and net Receipts; the number of Passengers conveyed and the number of miles run by Cars during the year ending the 30th day of June, 1899; together with the number of Horses, Engines, and Cars at that date (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 355, of Session 1898).”—(<i>Mr. Ritchie</i> .) Return presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 327)	1271
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QUESTIONS.

TRAINING SHIP FOR HARWICH HARBOUR—Question, Mr. Round (Essex, Harwich); Answer, The First Lord of the Admiralty (Mr. Goschen, St. George's, Hanover Square)	1271
DISCHARGES FROM THE ROYAL MARINES—Question, Sir Charles Cameron (Glasgow, Bridgeton); Answer, The First Lord of the Admiralty (Mr. Goschen, St. George's, Hanover-Square)	1271
ARMY ORDNANCE DEPARTMENT, PIMLICO—Question, Captain Norton (Newington, W.); Answer, The Under Secretary of State for War (Mr. Wyndham, Dover)	1272
WAR OFFICE ADMINISTRATION—Question, Major Rasch (Essex, S.E.); Answer, The Under Secretary of State for War (Mr. Wyndham, Dover)	1273

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RECRUITS' AGES—Question, Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.); Answer, The Under Secretary of State for War (Mr. Wyndham, Dover)	1273
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GUARANTEED RAILWAYS IN INDIA—Question, Mr. Souttar (Dumfriesshire); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Lord G. Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing)	1276
THE TRANSVAAL PETITIONS—Question, Mr. Bryn Roberts (Carnarvonshire, Eifion); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.)	1276
BRITISH NEW GUINEA ORDINANCES—Question, Mr. Hogan (Tipperary, Mid.); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.)	1277
CONTEMPT OF COURT IN THE WEST INDIES—Question, Mr. Thomas B. Curran (Donegal, N.); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.)	1277
SIERRA LEONE—Question, Mr. Pickersgill (Bethnal Green, S.W.); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.)	1278
BRITISH COMMERCIAL ATTACHES ABROAD—Question, Sir Stafford Northcote (Exeter); Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford)	1280
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MAINTENANCE IN INDUSTRIAL AND REFORMATORY SCHOOLS—Question, Mr. J. G. Talbot (Oxford University); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sir M. White Ridley, Lancashire, Blackpool)	1285
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IRISH ROAD CONTRACTORS—Question, Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.); Answer, The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.)	1299
CONTAGIOUS DISEASES (ANIMALS) ACT IN IRELAND—Question, Mr. Carew (Dublin, College Green); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. G. W. Balfour, Leeds, Central)	1299
MILK ADULTERATION IN IRELAND—Question, Captain Donelan (Cork, E.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. G. W. Balfour, Leeds, Central)	1300
IRISH LAND COMMISSION VALUERS—Question, Mr. J. O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. G. W. Balfour, Leeds, Central)	1300
DELACOUR <i>v.</i> HEALY—Question, Mr. William Abraham (Cork County, N.E.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. G. W. Balfour, Leeds, Central)	1301
DUBLIN CITY POLICE—Question, Mr. Clancy (Dublin Co., N.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. G. W. Balfour, Leeds, Central)	1302
LICENSING COMMISSION REPORTS—SUNDAY LIQUOR TRADE—Question, Mr. Tritton (Lambeth, Norwood); Answer, The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)	1303

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BEN NEVIS OBSERVATORY—Questions, Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.), and Mr. Buchanan (Aberdeenshire, E.); Answers, The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)... ..	1303
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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—Question, Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.); Answer, The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)	1305
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MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS—DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL—That they insist on their Amendments to the Dublin Corporation Bill, to which this House have disagreed, for which they assign reasons, and disagree to the consequential Amendments made by this House to the Bill.

That they have agreed to—Isle of Man (Customs) Bill, without Amendment. Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Bill; Sale of Food and Drugs Bill; Improvement of Land Bill; Small Houses (Acquisition of Ownership) Bill; North-West London Railway Bill; Brompton and Piccadilly Circus Railway Bill; Leeds Corporation Bill; Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway Bill; Newcastle-upon-Tyne Tramways and Improvement Bill; London Improvements Bill; Harrow and Uxbridge Railway Bill; Uxbridge and Rickmansworth Railway Bill, with Amendments. Amendments made by this House to the Amendments made by the Lords, and to the consequential Amendment made by this House to London and North-Western Railway (Additional Powers) Bill. Amendments to Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords]; Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 3) Bill [Lords]; Renfrew Burgh and Harbour Extension Bill [Lords]; Caledonian Railway (General Powers) Bill [Lords]; Aberdeen Joint Passenger Station Bill [Lords]; Leigh-on-Sea Urban District Council Bill [Lords]; Moss Side Urban District Council (Tramways) Bill [Lords]; Stretford Urban District Council (Tramways) Bill [Lords]; Withington Urban District Council (Tramways) Bill [Lords]; Weston-super-Mare, Clevedon, and Portishead Tramways Company (Light Railway Extensions) Bill [Lords]; Yeadon and Guiseley Gas Bill [Lords]; Glasgow and South-Western Railway Bill [Lords]; Great Eastern Railway (General Powers) Bill [Lords]; Great Yarmouth Water Bill [Lords]; North-Eastern Railway Bill [Lords]; North Staffordshire Railway Bill [Lords]; Wolverhampton Tramways Bill [Lords], without Amendment... ..

1305

PUBLIC BUSINESS.

Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Bill—Lords Amendments to be considered upon Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 300) 1307

Sale of Food and Drugs Bill—Lords Amendments to be considered upon Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 301.) 1307

Small Houses (Acquisition of Ownership) Bill—Lords Amendments to be considered upon Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 302)... .. 1307

SUPPLY [2ND ALLOTTED DAY]—Considered in Committee.

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES, 1899-1900.

CLASS I.

1. £2,303, to complete the sum for Harbours under the Board of Trade.

2. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £17,500, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for constructing a new Harbour of Refuge at Peterhead."

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Motion made, and Question, "That a sum, not exceeding £14,000, be granted for the said service"—(*Major Jameson*)—put and negatived.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

CLASS II.

3. £329,579, to complete the sum for Stationery and Printing.

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Captain Norton (Newington, W.)</i>	1308	<i>Captain Sinclair (Forfarshire)</i> ...	1311
<i>Mr. Lewis (Flint Boroughs)</i>	1308	<i>Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.)</i> ...	1311
<i>Mr. McLeod (Sutherland-shire)</i>	1309	<i>The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Hanbury, Preston)</i>	1311
<i>Mr. Carvell Williams (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield)</i>	1310	<i>Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean)</i>	1315
		<i>Mr. Lewis</i>	1316

Vote agreed to.

4. £3,454, to complete the sum for the Lunacy Commission, Scotland.

5. £2,829, to complete the sum for the Registrar-General's Office, Scotland.

CLASS IV.

6. £381,793, to complete the sum for the Science and Art Department.

7. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £106,030 (including a Supplementary sum of £3,750), be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and other Expenses of the British Museum, and of the Natural History Museum, including certain Grants in Aid."

<i>Mr. Lewis</i>	1317
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The Committee divided :—Ayes, 136 ; Noes, 51. (Division List, No. 337.)

8. £6,149, to complete the sum for the National Gallery.

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Lewis</i>	1319	<i>The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir M. Hicks-Beach, Bristol, W.)</i>	1320
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9. £2,981, to complete the sum for the National Portrait Gallery.

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Lewis</i>	1321	<i>Sir M. Hicks-Beach</i>	1323
<i>Mr. Hanbury</i>	1321	<i>Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice</i> ...	1324
<i>Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice (Wilts, Cricklade)</i> ...	1321		

Vote agreed to.

10. £6,000, to complete the sum for the Wallace Collection.

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11. £67,700, to complete the sum for Universities and Colleges, Great Britain, and Intermediate Education, Wales.

12. £4, to complete the sum for London University.

13. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £701,861, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1900, for Public Education in Scotland, and for Science and Art in Scotland."

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That a sum, not exceeding £700,861, be granted for the said Service."—
(*Sir Charles Cameron.*)

DISCUSSION:—

<i>The Lord Advocate (Mr.</i>	<i>Mr. Pirie</i>	...	...	...	1329
<i>A. G. Murray, Butehire)</i>	<i>Mr. A. G. Murray</i>	...	...	...	1330
<i>Sir Charles Cameron (Glas-</i>	<i>Mr. Southar (Dumfriesshire)</i>	...	...	...	1330
<i>gow, Bridgeton)</i>		...	...	...	1329

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 66; Noes, 141. (Division List, No. 338.)

Original Question put, and agreed to.

14. £2,000, to complete the sum for the National Gallery, &c., Scotland.

15. £621,117, to complete the sum for Public Education, Ireland.

<i>Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.)</i>	1333
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Vote agreed to.

16. £560, to complete the sum for Endowed Schools Commissioners, Ireland.

17. £1,300, to complete the sum for the National Gallery of Ireland.

18. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £2,450, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for a Grant in Aid of the Expenses of the Queen's Colleges in Ireland."

DISCUSSION:—

<i>Mr. Dillon...</i>	...	...	1334	<i>Mr. Dillon</i>	...	...	...	1339
<i>Mr. Perks (Lincolnshire,</i>				<i>Mr. Perks</i>	...	...	...	1339
<i>Louth)</i>	...	...	1338	<i>Mr. T. P. O'Connor (Liverpool,</i>				
<i>The Chief Secretary for Ire-</i>				<i>Scotland)</i>	...	...	...	1339
<i>land (Mr. G. W. Balfour,</i>				<i>Mr. Carvell Williams</i>	...	...	...	1342
<i>Leeds, Central)</i>	...	...	1338	<i>Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.)</i>	...	...	...	1344

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 169; Noes, 26. (Division List, No. 339.)

CLASS V.

19. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £227,335, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Expenses of Her Majesty's Embassies and Missions Abroad, and of the Consular Establishments Abroad and other Expenditure chargeable on the Consular Vote."

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Motion made, and Question proposed—

“That a sum, not exceeding £277,135, be granted for the said service.”—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford)</i>	1354	<i>Mr. Brodrick</i>	1363
<i>Mr. Sydney Gedge (Walsall)</i>	1356	<i>Mr. Broadhurst</i>	1364
<i>Mr. Broadhurst (Leicester)</i>	1356	<i>Mr. Lowles (Shoreditch, Haggerston)</i>	1364
<i>Mr. Havelock Wilson (Middlesbrough)</i>	1357	<i>Mr. Robson (South Shields)</i>	1365
<i>Mr. Brodrick</i>	1361	<i>Captain Norton (Newington, W.)</i>	1365
<i>Mr. Maddison (Sheffield, Brightside)</i>	1362	<i>Mr. Labouchere (Northampton)</i>	1368
		<i>Mr. Bayley (Derbyshire, Chesterfield)</i>	1368
		<i>Sir Charles Dilke</i>	1368

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 80 ; Noes, 174. (Division List, No. 340.)

It being after Ten of the clock, the Chairman, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 23rd February last, proceeded to put the Questions necessary to dispose of the outstanding Votes in the Committee of Supply.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

20. Motion made, and Question put, “That a sum, not exceeding £154,463, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for Grants in aid of the Expenses of the British Protectorates in Uganda and in Central and East Africa, and under the Uganda Railway Act, 1896” 1370

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 206 ; Noes, 69. (Division List, No. 341.)

21. Motion made, and Question put, “That a sum, not exceeding £1,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for a Grant in Aid of the Revenue of the Island of Cyprus” 1373

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 196 ; Noes, 78. (Division List, No. 342.)

22. Motion made, and Question put, “That a sum, not exceeding £34,241, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Subsidies to certain Telegraph Companies” 1375

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 197 ; Noes, 84. Division List, No. 343.)

CLASS I.

23. £4,000, Supplementary, Royal Palaces and Marlborough House.

24. Motion made, and Question put, “That a sum, not exceeding £130,537, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Survey of the United Kingdom, and for minor services connected therewith” 1379

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 207 ; Noes, 76. (Division List, No. 344.)

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25. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £17,641 (including a Supplementary sum of £13,000), be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Erection, Repairs, and Maintenance of Public Buildings in Ireland, for the Maintenance of certain Parks and Public Works, and for the Maintenance of Drainage Works on the River Shannon" ... 1381

The Committee divided :—Ayes 196 ; Noes, 81. (Division List, No. 345.)

CLASS II.

26. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £6,099, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Offices of the House of Lords" ... 1385

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 198 ; Noes, 81. (Division List, No. 346.)

27. £15,269, to complete the sum for House of Commons Offices.

28. £59,300, to complete the sum for the Treasury and Subordinate Departments.

29. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £96,868, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department and Subordinate Offices" ... 1387

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 204 ; Noes, 74. (Division List, No. 347.)

30. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £49,482, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs" 1391

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 197 ; Noes, 77. (Division List, No. 348.)

31. £64,070, to complete the sum for Mercantile Marine Services.

32. £6, to complete the sum for the Bankruptcy Department of the Board of Trade.

33. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £28,919, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Board of Agriculture, and to pay certain Grants in Aid" ... 1393

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 196 : Noes, 77. (Division List, No. 349.)

34. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £132,732, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Local Government Board" ... 1397

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 196 ; Noes, 72. (Division List, No. 350.)

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35. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £13,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for Her Majesty's Foreign and other Secret Services " 1399

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 201 ; Noes, 71. (Division List, No. 351.)

36. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £16,169, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Fishery Board in Scotland and for Grants in Aid of Piers or Quays " 1401

The Committee proceeded to a Division, and the Chairman stated that he thought the Ayes had it ; and on his decision being challenged it appeared to him that the Division was frivolously claimed, and he accordingly directed the Noes to stand up in their places, and five Members having stood up, the Chairman declared that the Ayes had it.

37. £8,000, to complete the sum for the Local Government Board of Scotland 1402

38. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £28,782, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Offices of the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant in Dublin and London, and Subordinate Departments " 1403

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 193 ; Noes, 75. (Division List, No. 352.)

39. £27,479, to complete the sum for the Local Government Board, Ireland.

CLASS III.

40. £60,806, to complete the sum for Law Charges and Courts of Law, Scotland.

41. £29,565, to complete the sum for the Register House, Edinburgh.

42. £3,000, to complete the sum for the Crofters' Commission.

43. £53,180, to complete the sum for Prisons, Scotland.

44. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £71,777, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for such of the Salaries and Expenses of the Supreme Court of Judicature and of certain other Legal Departments in Ireland as are not charged on the Consolidated Fund " ... 1405

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 188 ; Noes, 69. (Division List, No. 353.)

45. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £84,484, be granted to Her Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of the Irish Land Commission " 1409

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 186 ; Noes, 66. (Division List, No. 354.)

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46. £75,675, to complete the sum for County Court Officers, &c., Ireland.

47. £63,316, to complete the sum for Dublin Metropolitan Police.

48. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £750,900, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Expenses of the Royal Irish Constabulary" 1411

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 178 ; Noes, 64. (Division List, No. 355.)

49. £69,096, to complete the sum for Prisons, Ireland.

50. £54,669, to complete the sum for Reformatory and Industrial Schools, Ireland.

51. £4,044, to complete the sum for Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum, Ireland.

CLASS VI.

52. £7,497, to complete the sum for Hospitals and Charities, Ireland.

CLASS VII.

53. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £10,928 (including a Supplementary sum of £4,000), be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for certain Miscellaneous Expenses" 1413

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 180 ; Noes, 60. (Division List, No. 356.)

54. £20,000, for the Congested Districts Board, Scotland.

55. £14,251, for repayments to the Civil Contingencies Fund.

56. £60,000, for the Paris Exhibition, 1900.

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1899-1900.

57. £305,800, for Medical Establishment, Pay, etc.

58. £571,000, for Militia Pay, Bounty, etc.

59. £75,000, for Yeomanry Cavalry, Pay and Allowance.

60. £624,200, for Volunteer Corps, Pay and Allowances.

61. £790,000, for Transports and Remounts.

62. £111,100, for Establishments for Military Education.

63. £60,200, for Miscellaneous Effective Services.

64. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £248,300, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge for the Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges of the War Office, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900" 1417

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 180 ; Noes, 57. (Division List, No. 357.)

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65. £100, for Ordnance Factories.

Resolutions to be reported To-morrow.

WAYS AND MEANS—Considered in Committee.

Resolved—

“That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, the sum of £55,858,263 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.”
—(*Mr. Hanbury.*)

Resolution to be reported To-morrow.

In pursuance of the Order of the House of the 17th day of July last, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

House adjourned accordingly at five minutes after One of the clock.

LORDS: FRIDAY, 4TH AUGUST 1899.

EARL OF LANDAFF—Petition of Arnold Harris Mathew Earl of Landaff claiming a right to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland; read, and referred to the Lord Chancellor to consider and report thereupon to the House ... 1421

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Cromer Protection Bill [Lords]; **Oldham Corporation Bill** [Lords]; **North-Eastern and Hull and Barnsley Railways (Joint Dock) Bill** [Lords]; **Fylde Water Board Bill** [Lords]; **Salford Corporation Bill** [Lords]; **Wakefield Corporation Bill** [Lords]—Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to ... 1421

Stockport District Water Bill—The CHAIRMAN of COMMITTEES informed the House, That the promoters do not intend to proceed further with the Bill; Ordered, that the Bill be not further proceeded with ... 1421

Bradford Tramways and Improvement Bill—Read the third time, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons ... 1421

Belfast Corporation Bill; **City and Brixton Railway Bill**; **Gateshead and District Tramways Bill**; **London, Walthamstow, and Epping Forest Railway (No. 2) Bill**; **West Metropolitan Railway Bill**—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to ... 1421

Bexhill and Rotherfield Railway Bill—Returned from the Commons with the Amendment agreed to ... 1422

Education Department Provisional Order Confirmation (London) Bill [Lords]—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments ... 1422

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Birmingham, North Warwickshire, and Stratford-upon-Avon Railway Bill [Lords]; London and South-Western Railway Bill [Lords]; Manchester Corporation Tramways Bill [Lords]; Paisley and Barrhead District Railway Bill [Lords]; Portsmouth Corporation Bill [Lords]; Rochdale Canal Bill [Lords]; Southport and Lytham Tramroad Bill [Lords]; Wolverhampton Corporation Bill [Lords]; Workington Corporation Water Bill [Lords]—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered, and agreed to	1422
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RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT —I. (1) Schools in receipt of Parliamentary grants; (2) Grants paid to school boards under Section 97, Elementary Education Act, 1870; (3) School Board accounts and list loans (1898-99). II. Report of the Committee of Council on Education (England and Wales), with Appendix (1898-99). III. Minute of the Committee of Council on Education, dated 4th August, 1899, modifying Articles 15 and 15* of the Evening Continuation Schools Code, 1899	1422
EGYPT, No. 6 (1899) —Papers relating to the contract for the Atbara Bridge	1423
FACTORY AND WORKSHOP (PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS FROM MACHINERY IN THE MANUFACTURE OF COTTON) —Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, by W. A. Blaumont, Esquire, and H. S. Richmond, Esquire, two of Her Majesty's Superintending Inspectors of Factories, on the prevention of accidents from machinery in the manufacture of cotton	1423
RAILWAYS —General Report to the Board of Trade on the capital, traffic, and expenditure of the railway companies of the United Kingdom, for the year 1898	1423
STATISTICS —I. Statistical Abstract for the United Kingdom in each of the last fifteen years, from 1884 to 1898; Forty-sixth Number. II. Statistical Abstract for the Colonial and other Possessions of the United Kingdom in each of the last fifteen years, from 1884 to 1898; Thirty-sixth Number. Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table...	1423
SUPERANNUATION —Treasury Minute, dated 29th July, 1899, granting a retired allowance to Mr. G. F. Long, formerly a second division clerk in the Office of Public Works, Dublin, under Section 2 of the Superannuation Act, 1887	1423
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES —Report by the Board of Trade of their proceedings and business under the Weights and Measures Act	1423
RAILWAY SERVANTS (HOURS OF LABOUR) —Report of the Board of Trade respecting the proceedings of the Board of Trade under the Railway Regulation Act, 1893, during the year ended 27th July, 1899	1423
BANKRUPTCY —Sixteenth general Annual Report by the Board of Trade	1423
COMPANIES (WINDING-UP) —Eighth general Annual Report by the Board of Trade, under Section 29 of the Companies (Winding-up) Act, 1890. Laid before the House [pursuant to Act], and ordered to lie on the Table	1424

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PETITION.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS (BOROUGH FUNDS) ACT, 1872—Petition for the Amendment of ; of the Urban District Council of Petersfield ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table	1424
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HOUSE OF LORDS OFFICES—Second Report from the Select Committee, made ; to be printed ; and to be considered on Monday next. (No. 212.) ...	1424
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Improvement of Land Bill—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to	1424
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Companies Bill [Lords] ; Copyright Bill [Lords] ; Copyright (Artistic) Bill [Lords]—Message from the Commons for copies of Reports, &c., of the Select Committees ; Ordered to be communicated accordingly ...	1424
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Cottage Homes Bill ; METROPOLITAN GAS COMPANIES ; AGED DESERVING POOR—Messages to the Commons for Reports, &c., of Select Committees	1424
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Lincolnshire Coroners Bill [Lords]—Commons Amendments to be considered on Monday next	1424
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Salmon Fisheries (Scotland) Bill.

Motion made—

“ That this Bill be now read a first time.”—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The Marquess of Lothian</i> ... 1428	<i>The Secretary for Scotland</i> (<i>Lord Balfour of Burleigh</i>) 1429
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On Question agreed to.

Bill to repeal the Tweed Fisheries Acts, and to provide for the application of the Salmon Fisheries (Scotland) Acts to the district of the River Tweed—Was presented by the Lord Balfour ; read the first time ; and to be printed. (No. 213.)

THE NEW WAR OFFICE—MODELS OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Motion made—

“ That, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that models of all public buildings of importance that are about to be erected at the public cost should be made and publicly exhibited, and that this is more especially to be desired at the present time.”—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The Secretary of State for War</i> (<i>The Marquess of Lansdowne</i>) 1436	<i>The Earl of Wemyss</i> 1444
<i>Lord Stanmore</i> 1440	<i>The Postmaster-General</i> (<i>The Duke of Norfolk</i>) 1445
	<i>The Marquess of Lothian</i> ... 1445

Motion (by leave of the House) withdrawn.

Colonial Loans Bill—Read the second time [according to Order] ; Committees negatived : Then Standing Order No. XXXIX. considered [according to Order], and dispensed with : Then Bill read the third time, and passed ...	1446
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Inebriates Act (1898) Amendment Bill—[SECOND READING]—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read the second time."—(*Lord Belper.*)

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read the second time accordingly; Committees negatived: Then Standing Order No. XXXIX. considered [according to Order], and dispensed with: Then Bill read the third time, and passed ... 1447

Naval Works Bill; Telegraphs (Telephonic Communication) Bill—House in Committee [according to Order]; Bills reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; Then Standing Order No. XXXIX. considered [according to Order], and dispensed with; Bills read the third time, and passed ... 1447

Expiring Laws Continuance Bill; Public Works (Loans) Bill; Tancred's Charities Scheme Confirmation Bill—Read the second time [according to Order]; Committees negatived; and Bills to be read the third time on Monday next ... 1447

Board of Education Bill—Commons Amendments considered [according to Order]. Commons Amendments agreed to... 1448

Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Bill [Lords]; **Poor Law Acts Amendment Bill** [Lords]—Commons Amendments considered [according to Order], and agreed to ... 1448

Baths and Washhouses Acts Amendment Bill—[SECOND READING]—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read the second time."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, agreed to.

Read the second time [according to Order], and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next, and Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered in order to its being dispensed with ... 1448

Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Bill—Read the third time, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons ... 1448

Royal Niger Company Bill; Land Tax Commissioners' Names Bill; Patriotic Fund Bill; Reserve Forces Bill; Military Works Bill—Read the third time [according to Order], and passed ... 1448

Education Department Provisional Order Confirmation (London) Bill [Lords]—Commons Amendments considered [on Motion], and agreed to ... 1448

QUESTION.

THE CONVEYANCE OF MILITIA—Question, The Marquess of Lothian; Answer, The Secretary of State for War (The Marquess of Lansdowne) ... 1449

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes past Six of the clock.

COMMONS: FRIDAY, 4TH AUGUST 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Derwent Valley Water Bill—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to; Amendments made; and a consequential Amendment made to the Bill 1451

North-West London Railway Bill; Brompton and Piccadilly Circus Railway Bill; Leeds Corporation Bill; Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway Bill; Newcastle-upon-Tyne Railways and Improvement Bill; London Improvements Bill; Harrow and Uxbridge Railway Bill; Uxbridge and Rickmansworth Railway Bill—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to 1451

Portsmouth Corporation Bill [Lords]—As amended, considered. Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Dr. Farquharson.*) Bill read the third time accordingly, and passed, with Amendments 1451

STANDING ORDERS.

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The Chairman of Committees</i>	<i>Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.)</i> ...	1453
<i>(Mr. J. Lowther, Cumberland, Penrith)</i> ...	<i>Mr. Gulloway (Manchester, S.W.)</i>	1454
<i>Sir Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkestone)</i> ...		1453

Standing Order 1 was read, and amended :—

In line 39, in the second column, by leaving out the words after the word "subway" to the word "rails," in line 43.

Part II., Heading, in line 1, by leaving out the words "3 to 68 inclusive."

In line 8, by leaving out the words from the word "tenant" to the end of line 11, and inserting the words "the term 'London,' except where the City of London is expressly mentioned, means the administrative County of London."

In line 12, by leaving out the word "district," and inserting the words "sanitary authority."

In lines 12 and 13, by leaving out the words "the administrative county of."

In line 13, by leaving out the words from the word "any" to the end of line 15, and inserting the words "sanitary authority for the purposes of the Public Health (London) Act, 1891."

In line 15, by adding at the end thereof the words, "the term 'mechanical power' includes steam, electrical, and every other motive power not being animal power. Other expressions defined in the Interpretation Act, 1889, have the same meanings in these Orders as if these Orders were an Act of Parliament passed after the commencement of that Act."

Standing Order 6 was read and amended, in line 9, by leaving out the words from the word "and" to the word "tramway," in line 11, inclusive, and inserting the words "the motive power to be employed."

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Standing Order 6A was read and repealed.

Standing Order 6B was read and amended, in line 3, by leaving out all the words after the word "employed,"

Standing Order 10 was read and amended :—

In line 3, by leaving out the words "or subway."

In line 11, after the word "tramway," by inserting the word "or."

In line 48, by leaving out the words "or subway."

Standing Order 20, was read and amended :—

In line 4, by leaving out the words "post in."

In line 5, by leaving out from the word "letter," to the word "appointed, inclusive, in line 6.

Standing Order 22 was read and amended :—

In line 9, by leaving out from the word "authorities," to the words "Schedule A," in line 10, inclusive, and inserting the words "for the purposes."

In line 11, by leaving out the words from the word "of," to the second word "vestry," in line 15, inclusive, and inserting the words "a rural district in England the rural district council shall be deemed to be the local authority."

In line 16, by inserting after the word "be," the words "deemed to be," and leaving out the words "the Grand Jury of "; and leaving out the words after the word "county," to the word "1860," in line 23, inclusive, and inserting the words "and district councils."

Standing Order 24 was read and amended in line 19, by leaving out the words from the word "mile," to the word "(mile)," in line 22, inclusive.

Standing Order 25 was read and amended in line 3, by leaving out the word "said" and the words "or published."

Standing Order 25A was read and amended :—

In lines 1 and 2, by leaving out the words "a published," and inserting the words "an ordinance."

In line 3, by leaving out the words after the word "mile," to the word "obtainable," in line 4, inclusive.

Standing Order 26 was read and amended in lines 11 and 12, by leaving out the words "or published."

Standing Order 26A was read and amended in lines 10 and 11, by leaving out the words "or published."

Standing Order 27 was read and amended :—

In line 1, by leaving out the word "subway."

In line 41, by leaving out the word "said" and the words "or published."

Standing Order 28 was read and amended :—

In line 1, by leaving out the words from the word "situate," to the word "of," in line 2, inclusive, and inserting the word "in."

In line 3, by leaving out the words "within the said county," and inserting the words "in London."

In lines 4 and 5, by leaving out the words "lands within the said county," and inserting the word "London."

Standing Order 29 was read and amended :—

In line 11, by leaving out the words “the administrative county of.”

In lines 12 and 13, by leaving out the words “Vestry or District Board, as the case may be,” and inserting the words “sanitary authority.”

In line 23, by leaving out from the word “council,” to the word “included,” in line 31, both inclusive, and inserting the words—“(g) any burgh in Scotland, with the town clerk or clerk to the burgh commissioners, as the case may be; (h) any parish in Scotland, outside a burgh, with the clerk of the parish council.”

In line 32, by leaving out the words “sanitary authority,” and inserting the words “or rural district.”

In line 33, by leaving out the words “sanitary authority,” and inserting the words “district council.”

Standing Order 33 was read and amended :—

In line 1, by inserting after the word “copy,” the words “shall be deposited.”

In line 2, by leaving out the words “shall be deposited.”

In line 3, by leaving out the words “printed copy,” and inserting the words “of every local Bill relating to Scotland or Ireland at the Office of the Secretary for Scotland or the Irish Office, as the case may be.”

In line 4, by leaving out the word “subways.”

In line 6, by leaving out the words “shall be deposited.”

In lines 6 and 7, by leaving out the words “a printed copy.”

In line 8, by leaving out the words “shall be deposited.”

In line 10, by leaving out the words “a printed copy.”

In line 12, by leaving out the words “shall be deposited.”

In line 13, by leaving out the words “a printed copy.”

In lines 14 and 15, by leaving out the words “and of every Bill.”

In line 18, by inserting after the word “Land” the words “or in which provisions are contained relating to the labouring class in London; or promoted by municipal and other local authorities, by which it is proposed to create powers relating to police or sanitary regulations which deviate from, or are in extension of, or repugnant to, the General Law.”

In line 19, by leaving out the words “a printed copy.”

In line 21, by leaving out the words from the word “Colonies,” to the word “copy,” inclusive, in line 23.

In line 25, by leaving out the words “or to which Standing Order 38 applies.”

In line 26, by leaving out the words “a printed copy.”

In line 31, by leaving out the words “a printed copy.”

In line 34, by leaving out the words “a printed copy.”

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In line 37, by leaving out the words "a printed copy."

In line 39, by leaving out the words "a printed copy."

At the end thereof, by adding the words—

Of every local Bill which relates to the drainage of land in England or Wales, or which relates to the improvement of land in England, Wales, or Scotland, or to the erection, improvement, repair, maintenance, or regulation of any market or market place at which cattle are exposed for sale, or to any matter within the jurisdiction of the Board of Agriculture, or which proposes to alter the boundary of any county, urban or rural district, parish, or any other administrative area in the United Kingdom, or whereby power is sought to take any common or commonable land, at the Office of the Board of Agriculture.

Standing Orders 33A and 33B were read, and repealed.

Standing Order 34 was read and amended, in line 2, by leaving out the word "whereby," and inserting the words "which proposes to authorise," and in line 2, by leaving out the words from the word "work" to the second word "of," in line 3, inclusive, and inserting the word "in."

Standing Order 37 was read and amended in line 2, by leaving out the word "Subway."

Standing Order 38 was read and repealed.

Standing Order 45A was read and repealed.

Standing Order 57 was read and amended :—

In line 1, by inserting, after the first word "Bill," the word "or," and by leaving out the words "or Subway Bill."

In line 3, by inserting, after the first word "Company," the word "or," and by leaving out the words "or Subway Company."

In line 4, by inserting, after the word "Railway," the word "or."

In line 5, by leaving out the words "or subway."

In line 12, by inserting, after the first word "Bills," the word "and," and by leaving out the words "and Subway Bills."

Standing Orders 60 and 60A were read and repealed.

Standing Order 63 was read and amended, in line 3, by inserting after the word "or" the word "otherwise," and by leaving out the words from the word "constituted" to the word "Trustees," in line 6, inclusive.

Standing Order 65 was read and amended, in line 4, by inserting after the second word "or" the word "otherwise," and by leaving out the words from the word "constituted" to the word "Trustees," in line 8, inclusive.

Standing Order 67 was read and amended :—

In line 3, by leaving out the words "Grand Jury Cess," and inserting the words "the poor rate."

In line 9, by leaving out the words "grand jury" and inserting the words "county council," and by leaving out the words from the word "present" to the word "or," in line 10, inclusive,

In line 10, by leaving out the word "local,"

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In line 12, by leaving out the words "at large," and by leaving out the words from the word "more" to the word "Baronies" in line 13, inclusive, and inserting the words "urban or rural districts."

In line 14, by leaving out the words "presentment sessions," and inserting the words "county council."

In line 15, by leaving out the words "at large," and by leaving out the words "for such barony or baronies," and inserting the words "to the district council for such district," and by leaving out the words in lines 16 to 18, inclusive.

In line 19, by leaving out all the words after the second word "such," to the word "guardians," in line 21, inclusive, and inserting the words "county or district council."

In line 22, by leaving out all the words after the word "such," to the word "guardians," in line 23 inclusive, and inserting the word "council."

In line 26, by inserting after the word "published," the words "or circulating," and after the word "county," the words "or district," and by leaving out from the word "which," to the word "which," in line 27, inclusive.

In line 28, by leaving out the words from "charge," to the end of the paragraph.

In line 34, by leaving out the words from the second "the," to the word "respectively," in line 36, inclusive, and inserting the word "council."

In line 36, by leaving out the words "presentment or."

In line 37, by leaving out the words "each of the said bodies," and inserting the words "every council."

In line 39, by leaving out the word "foreman," and by leaving out the words "or other person."

In line 40, by leaving out the words "presentment was made, or such."

Standing Order 76 was read and amended, in line 4, by leaving out the words "to administer," and inserting the word "for," and by leaving out the words "in the Supreme Court of Judicature."

Standing Order 142 was read and amended, in line 5, by leaving out the words "to administer," and inserting the word "for," and by leaving out the words "in the Supreme Court of Judicature."

Standing Order 145 was read and amended, in line 2, by leaving out the words "public carriage," and inserting the word "main," and by leaving out the words from the word "or" to "1845," in line 3, inclusive.

Standing Order 153 was read and amended :—

In line 1, by leaving out the word "No," and inserting the word "A"; and by inserting after the word "shall" the word "not."

In line 3, by leaving out the word 'and,' and inserting the word 'or.'

In line 4, by leaving out the words "it shall not be in the power of the company."

In line 8, by leaving out the word "tramway."

In line 8, after the word "or," by inserting the word "tramway."

In line 9, by leaving out the word "subway."

Standing Order 155 was read and amended :—

In lines 2 and 3, by leaving out the words "steam or by any."

In line 4, by leaving out the words "including cable power."

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Standing Order 158 was read and amended :—

In line 7 of Paragraph D, by inserting after the word “railway,” the words “tramroad or tramway.”

In line 8, by leaving out the words from the beginning thereof to the word “years,” in line 9.

In line 9, by leaving out from the word “not” to the word “line,” inclusive, in line 10.

In line 10, by leaving out from the first word, “years,” to the word “year,” in line 11.

Standing Order 17A was read and amended, in line 16, by leaving out from the words “period of,” inclusive, to the end thereof, and inserting the words “Committee may, if they think fit, in the special circumstances of the case, substitute shorter periods for the periods mentioned in that section.”

Standing Order 173 was read and amended, in line 2, by leaving out the words “municipal corporation, municipal commissioners,” and inserting the words “urban district council.”

Standing Order 183A was read and repealed.

New Standing Order, to follow Standing Order 37. (Deposit of statement relating to labouring class houses.)

Ordered, That where any Bill contains or revives or extends power to take compulsorily or by agreement any land in any local area as defined for the purposes of this Order, and such taking involves or may involve the taking in any local area in London of twenty or more houses, or in any other local area of ten or more houses occupied either wholly or partially by persons of the labouring class, whether as tenants or lodgers, the promoters shall deposit in the Private Bill Office and at the office of the Central Authority on or before the 31st December a statement of the number, description, and situation of all such houses, and the number (so far as can be ascertained) of persons residing therein, and also a copy of so much of the plan (if any) as relates thereto.

This Order shall not apply where a statement in pursuance of this Order was deposited in respect of this Act, the powers of which are proposed to be revived or extended.

For the purposes of this Order, the expression “local area” means—

- (1) as respects London the City of London, and the district of any sanitary authority within the meaning of The Public Health (London) Act, 1891 ; (2) as respects England and Wales (outside London), any borough, or other urban district, and elsewhere, any parish ; (3) as respects Scotland, any district within the meaning of The Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897 ; and (4) as respects Ireland, any urban district ;

The expression “house” means any tenement separately occupied by any person or persons ;

The expression “labouring class” means mechanics, artisans, labourers, and others working for wages, hawkers, costermongers, persons not working for wages but working at some trade or handicraft without employing others except members of their own family, and persons, other than domestic servants, whose income does not exceed an average of thirty shillings a week, and the families of any of such persons who may be residing with them ;

The expression "Central Authority" means as regards London the Secretary of State for the Home Department, and as regards England and Wales (outside London) the Local Government Board, as regards Scotland the Secretary for Scotland, and as regards Ireland the Local Government Board for Ireland ;

The expression "Bill" includes a Bill confirming a Provisional Order.

New Standing Order, to follow Standing Order 59 (Deposit Bills brought from House of Lords) :—

Ordered, That a copy of every Local Bill brought from the House of Lords shall, not later than two days after the Bill is read a first time, be deposited at every Office at which it was deposited under Orders 33, 33A, and 38, or would be required to be deposited under those Orders, if it had been originally introduced as brought from the House of Lords.

New Standing Order, to follow Standing Order 183 (Provisions with respect to houses occupied by labouring class) :—

Ordered, That, in the case of every Bill which gives, revives, or extends power to take land compulsorily or by agreement, clauses shall be inserted—

- (1) Providing that the promoters shall not in the exercise of such power purchase or acquire in any local area in London twenty or more houses, or, in any other local area, ten or more houses, occupied either wholly or partially by persons belonging to the labouring class, as tenants or lodgers, unless and until
 - (a) They shall have obtained the approval of the central authority to a scheme for providing new dwellings for the persons residing in such houses, or for such number or proportion of such persons as the central authority shall, after enquiry, deem necessary, having regard to the number of persons residing in the houses liable to be taken and working within one mile therefrom, and to the amount of vacant suitable accommodation in the immediate neighbourhood of the houses liable to be taken, or to the place of employment of such persons, and all the other circumstances of the case ; and
 - (b) They shall have given security to the satisfaction of the central authority for the carrying out of the scheme.
- (2) Imposing adequate penalties on the promoters in the event of houses being acquired or appropriated for the purposes of the Bill in contravention of the foregoing provisions ;
- (3) Providing that the expenses or any part of the expenses incurred by the central authority under this Order shall be defrayed by the promoters of the Bill, or out of moneys to be raised under the Bill ; and
- (4) Conferring on the promoters and on the central authority respectively any powers that may be necessary to enable full effect to be given to the said scheme.

The Committee may provide that any house purchased or acquired by the promoters in any local area in London for, or in connection with any of the purposes of the Bill, whether purchased or acquired in the exercise of the powers of the Bill, or otherwise, and whether before or after the passing of the Bill, shall be deemed, for the purposes of the clauses so to be inserted, to have been purchased or acquired in exercise of the powers of the Bill.

Expressions defined in Order 38 have the same meanings in this Order.

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Ordered, that the said Standing Orders be Standing Orders of this House.
 —(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*) 1454

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 [Lords]—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 1465

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 Abstract for the United Kingdom in each of the last fifteen years from
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STATISTICAL ABSTRACT (COLONIES)—Copy presented,—of Statistical Abstract
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 mand] ; to lie upon the Table 1466

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Mr. Broadhurst] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 329.) ... 1466

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 Board of Trade under the Bankruptcy Act, 1883 [by Act] ; to lie upon the
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SOUTH TIPPERARY MAILS—Question, Mr. Arthur Moore (Londonderry); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Hanbury, Preston)	1484
COLONEL VANDALEUR AND KILRUSH PIER—Questions, Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.), and Major Jameson (Clare, W.); Answers, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Hanbury, Preston)	1485
THE NEW FOREST—Question, Mr. Scott-Montagu (Hampshire, New Forest); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Hanbury, Preston)	1486
AUXILIARY SERVICE AND PENSIONS IN THE POST OFFICE—Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Hanbury, Preston)	1486
DOUBLE INCREMENTS IN THE POST OFFICE—Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Hanbury, Preston)	1486
ALLEGED REDUCTION OF WAGES IN THE POST OFFICE—Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Hanbury, Preston)	1487
NORWICH AND GREAT YARMOUTH TELEPHONIC SERVICE—Question, Sir Harry Bullard (Norwich); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Hanbury, Preston)	1487
ORDNANCE SURVEY STAFF—Question, Mr. Clancy (Dublin County, N.); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Hanbury, Preston)	1487
QUEENSTOWN RURAL POSTMEN—Question, Captain Donelan (Cork, E.); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Hanbury, Preston)	1488
COLLINSTOWN POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS—Question, Mr. Hayden (Roscommon, S.); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Hanbury, Preston)	1488
PROCURATOR-FISCAL OF ORKNEY—Question, Mr. Hedderwick (Wick Burghs); Answer, The Lord Advocate (Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire) ...	1489

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BELFAST DISTURBANCES—CONSTABLE NULTY—Questions, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick), and Mr. Macaleese (Monaghan, N.); Answers, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. G. W. Balfour, Leeds, Central)...	1489
IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ORDERS—Question, Mr. Maurice Healy (Cork); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. G. W. Balfour, Leeds, Central)	1490
IRISH INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS—Question, Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. G. W. Balfour, Leeds, Central)	1491
GRANARD UNION DISPENSARY DOCTOR—Question, Mr. Blake (Longford, S.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. G. W. Balfour, Leeds, Central)	1491
PROSPECTIVE PARLIAMENTARY WORK—Questions, Mr. H. S. Foster (Suffolk, Lowestoft), and Sir Thomas Lea (Londonderry); Answers, The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)	1492
REPORT OF SUPPLY—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)	1493
Improvement of Land Bill —Lords Amendment to be considered forthwith; considered, and agreed to	1493
Companies Bill [Lords]—Ordered, That a Message be sent to the Lords to request that their Lordships will be pleased to communicate to this House a Copy of the Report from the Select Committee appointed by their Lordships on the Companies Bill [Lords], with the Proceedings of the Committee, Minutes of Evidence, &c.—(<i>Mr. Ritchie.</i>)	1493
Copyright Bill [Lords] and Copyright Artistic Bill [Lords]—Ordered, That a Message be sent to the Lords to request that their Lordships will be pleased to communicate to this House a Copy of the Report from the Select Committee appointed by their Lordships on the Copyright Bill [Lords] and the Copyright Artistic Bill [Lords], with the Proceedings of the Committee, Minutes of Evidence, &c.—(<i>Mr. Solicitor-General.</i>)	1494
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MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS—That they have agreed to—Metropolitan Police Bill; Electric Lighting (Clauses) Bill, without Amendment. Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Bill; Bradford Tramways and Improvement Bill, with Amendments. Amendments to—Commons and Open Spaces Bill [Lords]; Hastings Harbour Bill [Lords]; Oystermouth Railway or Tramroad Bill [Lords]; Clyde Navigation Bill [Lords], without Amendment. That they have passed a Bill intituled “An Act to amend the Companies Acts.” [Companies Bill [Lords.]	1494
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Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Bill —Lords Amendments to be considered upon Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 303.)	1494
LICENSED PREMISES (HOURS OF SALE) (SCOTLAND)—Bill to alter the Law relating to the Hours during which Premises licensed for the Sale of Excisable Liquors may be open in Scotland, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Provand, Captain Sinclair, Mr. Colville, and Mr. Ure	1494

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Licensed Premises (Hours of Sale) (Scotland) Bill —"To alter the Law relating to the Hours during which Premises licensed for the Sale of Ex-cisable Liquors may be open in Scotland," presented accordingly, and read the first time ; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 304.)	1495
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PUBLIC BUSINESS.

SUPPLY—[23RD ALLOTTED DAY] [3RD AUGUST]—Resolutions reported.

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES, 1899-1900..

CLASS I.

1. "That a sum, not exceeding £2,303, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for maintaining certain Harbours under the Board of Trade."

2. "That a sum not exceeding £17,500, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for constructing a new Harbour of Refuge at Peterhead."

CLASS II.

3. "That a sum, not exceeding £329,579, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for stationery, printing, paper, binding, and printed books for the public service, and for the salaries and expenses of the Stationery Office ; and for sundry miscellaneous services, including Reports of Parliamentary Debates."

DISCUSSION :—

Mr. James. Lowther (Kent,
Thanet) 1495

The Financial Secretary to the
Treasury (Mr. Hanbury,
Preston) 1496

Vote agreed to.

4. "That a sum, not exceeding £3,454, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Board of Lunacy in Scotland."

5. "That a sum, not exceeding £2,829, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of the Registrar-General of Births, etc., in Scotland."

CLASS IV.

6. "That a sum, not exceeding £381,793, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Science and Art, and of the various Establishments connected therewith, including sundry Grants in Aid."

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '£381,793,' and insert '£381,693.'"—(*Mr. Channing.*)

Question proposed, "That '381,793' stand part of the Resolution."

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DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. James Lowther</i> ...	1500	<i>The Vice-President of the Com-</i>	
<i>Sir Albert Rollit (Islington,</i>		<i>mittee of Council on Educa-</i>	
<i>N.)</i> ...	1501	<i>tion (Sir J. Gorst, Cambridge</i>	
<i>Mr. Yoxall (Nottinghamshire,</i>		<i>University)</i> ...	1503
<i>W.)</i> ...	1502	<i>Mr. Flower (Bradford, W.)</i> ...	1505
<i>Mr. Lewis (Flint Boroughs)</i>	1503	<i>Sir W. Hart-Dyke (Kent, Dart-</i>	
		<i>ford)</i> ...	1506

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 99 ; Noes, 36. (Division List, No. 358.)

7. "That a sum, not exceeding £106,030 (including a Supplementary sum of £3,750), be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and other Expenses of the British Museum, and of the Natural History Museum, including certain Grants in Aid."

8. "That a sum, not exceeding £6,149, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the National Gallery, and of the National Gallery of British Art, Millbank, including a Grant in Aid for the purchase of Pictures."

9. "That a sum, not exceeding £2,981, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the National Portrait Gallery, including a Grant in Aid for the purchase of Portraits."

10. "That a sum, not exceeding £6,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Wallace Collection (Hertford House)."

11. "That a sum, not exceeding £67,700, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for Grants in Aid of the Expenses of certain Universities and Colleges in Great Britain, and of the Expenses under the Welsh Intermediate Education Act, 1889."

12. "That a sum, not exceeding £4, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the University of London."

13. "That a sum, not exceeding £701,861, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for Public Education in Scotland, and for Science and Art in Scotland."

14. "That a sum, not exceeding £2,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for a Grant to the Board of Trustees for Manufactures in Scotland in aid of the maintenance of the National Gallery, School of Art, and Museum of Antiquities, Scotland."

15. "That a sum, not exceeding £621,117, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Expenses of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, including a Grant in Aid of the Teachers' Pension Fund, Ireland."

16. "That a sum, not exceeding £560, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Expenses of the Office of the Commissioners for managing certain School Endowments in Ireland."

17. "That a sum, not exceeding £1,300, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the National Gallery of Ireland, including a Grant in Aid for the purchase of Pictures."

18. "That a sum, not exceeding £2,450, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for a Grant in Aid of the Expenses of the Queen's Colleges in Ireland."

CLASS V.

19. "That a sum, not exceeding £277,335, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Expenses of Her Majesty's Embassies and Missions Abroad, and of the Consular Establishments Abroad, and other Expenditure chargeable on the Consular Vote."

Resolutions agreed to 1507

20. "That a sum, not exceeding £154,463, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for Grants in Aid of the Expenses of the British Protectorates in Uganda and in Central and East Africa, and under The Uganda Railway Act, 1896."

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '£154,463,' and insert '£154,263.'"—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)

Question proposed, "That '£154,463' stand part of the Resolution."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>The Under Secretary of State</i>	<i>Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire,</i>	
<i>for Foreign Affairs (Mr.</i>	<i>Forest of Dean)</i>	... .. 1515
<i>Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford)</i>	<i>Mr. Brodrick</i>	... .. 1515
1514	<i>Mr. Labouchere (Northampton)</i>	... .. 1516

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 103 ; Noes, 47. (Division List, No. 359.)

21. "That a sum, not exceeding £1,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for a Grant in Aid of the Revenue of the Island of Cyprus."

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DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir Albert Rollit</i>	1519	<i>The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.)</i>	1525
<i>Mr. Channing (Northampton, E.)</i>	1522	<i>Mr. Hedderwick (Wick Burghs)</i>	1529
<i>Mr. Pierpoint (Warrington)</i>	1523	<i>Mr. J. Chamberlain</i>	1259
		<i>Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.)</i>	1529

Vote agreed to.

22. "That a sum, not exceeding £36,241, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Subsidies to certain Telegraph Companies."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir Charles Dilke</i>	1530	<i>The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir M. Hicks-Beach, Bristol, W.)</i>	1531
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Vote agreed to.

CLASS I.

23. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £4,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for Expenditure in respect of Royal Palaces and Marlborough House."

24. "That a sum, not exceeding £130,537, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Survey of the United Kingdom, and for minor services connected therewith."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir Charles Dilke</i>	1531	<i>Mr. Hanbury</i>	1532
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Vote agreed to.

25. "That a sum, not exceeding £147,641 (including a Supplementary sum of £13,000), be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Erection, Repairs, and Maintenance of Public Buildings in Ireland, for the Maintenance of certain Parks and Public Works, and for the Maintenance of Drainage Works on the River Shannon."

CLASS II.

26. "That a sum, not exceeding £6,099, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Offices of the House of Lords."

<i>Mr. Dillon</i>	1535
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Motion made, and Question put, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

The House divided :—Ayes, 104 ; Noes, 41. (Division List, No. 360.)

27. "That a sum, not exceeding £15,269, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses in the Offices of the House of Commons."

28. "That a sum, not exceeding £59,300, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses in the Department of Her Majesty's Treasury and Subordinate Departments."

29. "That a sum, not exceeding £96,868, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department and Subordinate Offices."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir Charles Dilke</i> ...	1537	<i>The Secretary of State for the</i>	
<i>Mr. Carvell Williams (Notts,</i>		<i>Home Department (Sir M. White</i>	
<i>Mansfield)</i> ...	1539	<i>Ridley, Lancs., Blackpool)</i> ...	1542
<i>Mr. Havelock Wilson (Mid-</i>			
<i>dlesbrough)</i> ...	1540		

Motion made, and Question put, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

The House proceeded to a Division, and Mr. Speaker stated that he thought the Ayes had it ; and on his decision being challenged, it appeared to him that the Division was frivolously claimed, and he accordingly directed the Noes to stand up in their places, and seven Members having stood up, Mr. Speaker declared that the Ayes had it.

Resolution agreed to.

30. "That a sum, not exceeding £49,482, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Atherley-Jones (Durham,</i>		<i>Mr. Havelock Wilson</i> ...	1548
<i>N.W.)</i> ...	1544	<i>Mr. Channing</i> ...	1549
<i>The First Lord of the Treasury</i>		<i>Mr. Lewis</i> ...	1550
<i>(Mr. A. J. Balfour, Man-</i>		<i>The President of the Board of</i>	
<i>chester, E.)</i> ...	1546	<i>Agriculture (Mr. Long, Liver-</i>	
<i>Mr. Brodrick</i> ...	1547	<i>pool, West Derby)</i> ...	1551
<i>Sir Charles Dilke</i> ...	1548		

Vote agreed to.

34. "That a sum, not exceeding £132,732, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Local Government Board."

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DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) ...</i>	... 1554	<i>The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Chaplin, Lincolnshire, Sleaford) ...</i>	1555
<i>Mr. Maddison (Sheffield, Brightside) ...</i>	... 1554	<i>Mr. H. J. Wilson (Yorkshire, W.R., Holmfirth) ...</i>	... 1556

CLASS III.

40. "That a sum, not exceeding £60,806, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Lord Advocate's Department, and other Law Charges, and the Salaries and Expenses of the Courts of Law and Justice in Scotland."

41. "That a sum, not exceeding £29,565, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Offices in Her Majesty's General Register House, Edinburgh."

42. "That a sum, not exceeding £3,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Expenses of the Establishment of the Crofters' Commission."

43. "That a sum, not exceeding £53,180, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Expenses of the Prison Commissioners for Scotland, and of the Prisons under their control, including the Maintenance of Criminal Lunatics and the Preparation of Judicial Statistics."

44. "That a sum, not exceeding £71,777, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for such of the Salaries and Expenses of the Supreme Court of Judicature and of certain other Legal Departments in Ireland as are not charged on the Consolidated Fund."

45. "That a sum, not exceeding £84,484, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Irish Land Commission."

46. "That a sum, not exceeding £75,675, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries, Allowances, Expenses, and Pensions of various County Court Officers, of Commissioners, and of Magistrates in Ireland, and the Expenses of Revision."

47. "That a sum, not exceeding £63,316, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Commissioner of Police, the Police Courts, and the Metropolitan Police Establishment of Dublin."

48. "That a sum, not exceeding £750,900, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Expenses of the Royal Irish Constabulary."

49. "That a sum, not exceeding £62,096, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Expenses of the General Prisons Board in Ireland, and of the Prisons under their control, and of the Registration of Habitual Criminals."

50. "That a sum, not exceeding £54,669, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Expenses of Reformatory and Industrial Schools in Ireland."

51. "That a sum, not exceeding £4,044, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Maintenance of Criminal Lunatics in the Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum, Ireland."

CLASS VI.

52. "That a sum, not exceeding £7,497, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for Hospitals and Infirmarys, and certain Miscellaneous, Charitable, and other Allowances in Ireland, including sundry Grants in Aid."

CLASS VII.

53. "That a sum, not exceeding £10,928 (including a Supplementary sum of £4,000), be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for certain Miscellaneous Expenses."

54. "That a sum, not exceeding £20,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for a Grant to the Congested Districts (Scotland) Fund constituted by the Congested Districts (Scotland) Act, 1897, in aid of expenditure in carrying out the purposes of the Act, and for other purposes."

55. "That a sum, not exceeding £14,251, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the repayment to the Civil Contingencies Fund of certain Miscellaneous Advances."

56. "That a sum, not exceeding £60,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for a Grant in Aid of the Expenses of the Royal Commission for the British Section at the Paris International Exhibition, 1900."

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ARMY ESTIMATES, 1899-1900.

57. "That a sum, not exceeding £305,800, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge for the Pay, &c., of the Medical Establishment, and for Medicines, &c., which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900."

58. "That a sum, not exceeding £571,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge for the Pay, Bounty, &c., of the Militia (to a number not exceeding 131,670, including 30,000 Militia Reserve), which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900."

59. "That a sum, not exceeding £75,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge for the Pay and Miscellaneous Charges of the Yeomanry Cavalry, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900."

60. "That a sum, not exceeding £624,200, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge for Capitation Grants and Miscellaneous Charges of Volunteer Corps, including Pay, &c., of the Permanent Staff, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Mr. Channing</i> ...	1560	<i>The Under Secretary of State for</i>	
<i>Sir Charles Dilke</i> ...	1561	<i>War (Mr. Wyndham, Dover)</i>	1562

Vote agreed to.

61. "That a sum, not exceeding £790,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge for Transport and Remounts, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900."

DISCUSSION :—

<i>Sir Charles Dilke</i> ...	1563	<i>Mr. Wyndham</i> ...	1564
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Vote agreed to.

62. "That a sum, not exceeding £111,100, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge for Establishments for Military Education, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900."

<i>Sir Charles Dilke</i>	1564
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Vote agreed to.

63. "That a sum, not exceeding £60,200, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge for Sundry Miscellaneous Effective Services, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900."

64. That a sum, not exceeding £248,300, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge for the Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges of the War Office, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900."

<i>Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.)</i>	1565
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Vote agreed to.

65. "That a sum, not exceeding £100, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge for the Ordnance Factories (the cost of the Productions of which will be charged to the Army, Navy, and Indian and Colonial Governments), which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900."

SUPPLY [28TH JULY]—REPORT.

Postponed Resolution, "That a sum, not exceeding £31,405, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, including a Grant in Aid of certain Expenses connected with Emigration," further considered.

Mr. Hedderwick 1566

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '£31,405,' and insert '£31,305.'"—(*Mr. Hedderwick.*)

Question put, "That '£31,405' stand part of the said Resolution."

The House divided :—Ayes, 118 ; Noes, 29. (Division List, No. 361.)

It being after Ten of the Clock, Mr. Speaker, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 23rd February last, proceeded to put the Question forthwith, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution," that being the only Question necessary to complete the proceedings on the Resolutions reported from the Committee of Supply.

Resolution agreed to.

"That towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, the sum of £55,858,263, be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom."

Resolution agreed to :—Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. James William Lowther, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Hanbury 1567

Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill—"To apply a sum out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred, and to appropriate the Supplies granted in this session of Parliament," presented accordingly, and read the first time ; to be read a second time upon Monday next ... 1568
Adjournment—Motion made, and Question, "That this House, at its rising, do adjourn till Monday next"—(*Mr. Balfour*)—put and agreed to.

In pursuance of the Order of the House of the 17th day of July last, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

House adjourned at five minutes after Ten of the clock.

THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(AUTHORISED EDITION)

IN THE

FIFTH SESSION OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, APPOINTED
TO MEET THE 7TH FEBRUARY 1899, IN THE 62ND YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA.

TENTH VOLUME OF SESSION 1899.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 24th July 1899.

SOUDAN CAMPAIGN, 1896-7-8.

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE FORCES
ENGAGED IN THE RECENT OPERATIONS
IN THE SOUDAN.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that he had received a letter from General Sir Francis Grenfell, in return to the thanks of this House, and to the Resolutions of the 8th of June last, communicated to him in obedience to an Order of this House of the said 8th of June.

The letter was read, as follows :—

“The Palace, Malta, July 18, 1899.

“My Lord,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter enclosing a copy of a Resolution of the House of Lords conveying to me the thanks of the House.

“I am deeply grateful to the House for its acknowledgment of my services, and to your Lordship for sending me the Resolution.

“I am, my Lord, your Lordship's obedient servant,

“FRANCIS GRENFELL, General,
Commander-in-Chief, Malta.

“The Right Hon. the Earl of
Halsbury, Lord Chancellor.”

VOL. LXXV. [FOURTH SERIES.]

Letter ordered to be entered on the Journals.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

WEST METROPOLITAN RAILWAY
BILL.

Reported, with Amendments.

GREAT YARMOUTH CORPORATION
BILL [H.L.].

Commons Amendments considered,
and agreed to.

GODALMING CORPORATION WATER
BILL.

WARRINGTON CORPORATION BILL.

LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN
RAILWAY (NEW RAILWAYS) BILL.

SHEFFIELD CORPORATION MARKETS
BILL.

Read 3^a; with the Amendments, and
passed, and returned to the Commons.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 12) BILL [H.L.].

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 13) BILL [H.L.].

BUENOS AYRES AND PACIFIC RAIL-
WAY COMPANY BILL [R.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed
to.

A

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 9) BILL.**

BLACKPOOL IMPROVEMENT BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

**BURGH POLICE (SCOTLAND) PRO-
VISIONAL ORDER BILL.**

Committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL
ORDER (No. 15) BILL.**

***LORD HARRIS:** My Lords, I have to move that the Order of the 9th of March last, which provides that no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought up from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after June 27th, be dispensed with, and that this Bill be read a second time. This action is not necessitated through any neglect on the part of the Local Government Board. The time in which a petition could have been presented against the Bill in the House of Commons was exhausted, and those who would have been the petitioners proceeded by private motion in the House of Commons, and the matter was referred to a Hybrid Committee.

Moved, That the Order of the 9th March last, "That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Tuesday, the 27th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 2^a; agreed to; Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL
ORDER (No. 14) BILL.**

House in Committee (according to Order); Amendments made; Standing Committee negatived; The Report of Amendments to be received To-morrow.

**ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL
ORDER (No. 17) BILL.**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 6) BILL.**

Read 3^a (according to Order), and passed.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

Reports from University Colleges (1899): Colonies—

I. (Miscellaneous.) No. 12. Anguilla: Report on vital statistics;

II. (Annual.) No. 262. Barbados: Annual Report for 1898.

JAMAICA.

Further correspondence relating to the finances and government of the Island of Jamaica (in continuation of [C.-9177], February, 1899).

TRADE REPORTS (1889)

Annual Series: No. 2320. Trade of Austria-Hungary for the year 1898.

**BOARD OF TRADE (LABOUR DEPART-
MENT) (PROVISION FOR OLD AGE
ABROAD).**

Provision for old age by Government action in certain European countries.

**CHARITABLE DONATIONS AND
BEQUESTS (IRELAND).**

Fifty-fourth Annual Report of the Commissioners.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

NAVAL SAVINGS BANKS.

Account of deposits in Naval Savings Banks and the payments thereof, and of interest thereon, of all investments under the Naval Savings Banks Act, 1866, and the application of the interest or dividends accruing in respect thereof, and of the proceeds of any sale of any stocks, annuities, or securities during the financial year 1897-98.

**POLLING DISTRICTS (WEST RIDING
OF YORKSHIRE).**

Orders made by the County Council of the West Riding of Yorkshire altering certain polling districts and polling places within the Parliamentary Divisions of Normanton, Otley, and Rotherham, laid before the House (pursuant to Act) and ordered to lie on the Table.

COPYRIGHT BILL [H.L.].

COPYRIGHT (ARTISTIC) BILL [H.L.].

Report from the Select Committee (with the proceedings of the Committee)

made, and to be printed. (No. 178.) Minutes of evidence, together with an appendix, laid upon the Table, and to be delivered out.

COPYRIGHT BILL [H.L.]

Reported from the Select Committee with Amendments, and committed to a Committee of the whole House, and to be printed as amended. (No. 179.)

TITHE RENT-CHARGE (RATES) BILL.

(SECOND READING.)

Order of the Day for Second Reading read.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR THE COLONIES (The Earl of SELBORNE): My Lords, the Bill which I am about to ask your Lordships to read a second time is a very short one. It relieves the owner of tithe rent-charge attached to a benefice of half the payment of any rate to which this Act applies, and which is assessed to him as the owner of that tithe rent-charge. It is enacted that the half of which he is so relieved is to be paid out of that portion of the Local Taxation Account which is derived from the Estate Duty Grant. That, my Lords, is the Bill. Now, what is the hardship which these provisions are intended to meet? I will commence by giving a very simple and very common illustration. Take the case of a vicar who, after all legal deductions had been made, is assessed on a tithe rent-charge of £300 a year,—which constitutes his whole income, and also on his house, say, at £30. He will pay in rates more than a man who lives in a house in the parish assessed at £300 a year, and whose income in all probability is not less than £3,000 a year. Then take the case of two vicars of adjoining parishes, each with an income of £200 a year, and each inhabiting a house assessed at £30. "A's" income is derived from tithe rent-charge; "B's" from a fixed money payment. "B" will pay in rates, at the rate of 2s. 6d. in the pound, £3 15s., whilst "A" will pay £25. This illustration is a very common and a very simple one, but I hope to be able to show your Lordships presently that there are harder cases still before which these more ordinary instances fall into comparative insignificance. What is the history of this grievance? Is it an old story? If not, how and why did it arise? If it is an old story,

why is the subject now brought forward for legislation for the first time? I am afraid, my Lords, I must ask you to throw your minds back for a long period of time, because the history of this case originates from the famous Statute of 1601, 43 Elizabeth, cap. 2, which was the origin of our present Poor Law. I shall not, my Lords, have to trouble you with any detailed allusion to the vexed question as to what was the intention of that famous Statute in connection with tithe not severed from the benefice. It will suffice if I remind your Lordships that opinions differ on that subject. Many persons hold—and, so far as I can judge, the Royal Commissioners are inclined that way themselves—that it was not intended by that Statute to make tithe not severed from the benefice liable to rates; but, be that as it may, it is an absolutely indisputable fact that in practice, confirmed by the constant decisions of Courts of Law, tithe not severed from a benefice was rateable hereditament before the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836. I lay great stress on that Act, because from the date of this Act springs the grievance to which I am going to ask your Lordships to assist in applying a remedy. What was the state of affairs as regards tithe in this country before the Tithe Commutation Act? It was only legally payable in kind, and a certain portion of the clergy actually received their tithe in kind. A great majority of them, however, had made arrangements with the tithe-payer, by which a composition was made, and the tithe-payer paid so much money to the tithe-owner instead of paying him the tithe in kind. As a general rule, these bargains were proved before the Tithe Commissioners to have been good ones for the tithe-payers, but even when a composition was paid that composition took two forms. Sometimes the tithe-owner received the whole amount of the money which had been agreed upon in the composition, but more usually—in the far greater number of cases—the tithe-payer paid the rates on the tithe, and only handed to the tithe-owner the difference between the rates paid and the composition arrived at. Therefore, before the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836 the total amount of the tithe payable by a tithe-owner was very imperfectly known, and the methods of assessment were lax. I will read to your Lordships a paragraph

from the Interim Report of the Royal Commission on this subject. They say, in paragraph 35 :

"Again, the Rev. C. A. Stevens, a well-known authority on the subject of tithes, stated in 1879 :—

"Previously to the commutation the total amount of the tithes in a parish was in most cases as much unknown to anyone except the tithe-owner himself, and as much a subject of estimate as the gross produce of the land. In nearly two-thirds of the cases the farmers agreed with the tithe-owner to pay him a money composition on the plan of their paying all rates. Thus no question of total amount of tithes and modes of assessment could arise. The farmers levied the whole rate among themselves. In the remaining cases where tithe was taken in kind very different practices seem to have prevailed. In some districts they were not rated at all. In others he was charged with a fifth, a sixth, or an eighth of the whole rate of the parish. In some places in later years a valuer was called in, and the tithe-owner was rated with reference to his supposed gross income. When rates were levied, as they generally were, at half rents, or two-thirds rents in some cases at least, the tithe-owner was rated at an aliquot reduction."

The effect, therefore, of the Tithe Commutation Act was to make the exact value of the tithe rent-charge to a penny known in every parish ; but questions of rents, land values, and gross profits from the land remained doubtful and vague. That Act was not the only great Act of Legislation in that year. In the same year (1836) was passed the Parochial Assessments Act, and, in respect of that Act, I would again trouble your Lordships with an extract from the Report of the Royal Commission, and I lay great stress and emphasis on the effect of this Act, because it is really on the interpretation of this Act by the Courts that the whole question hangs. The Royal Commission say :—

"In the same year as the Tithe Act the Parochial Assessments Act was passed for the purpose of establishing 'one uniform mode of rating for the relief of the poor throughout England and Wales,' and it enacted that 'no rate for the relief of the poor in England and Wales shall be allowed by any justices, or be of any force, which shall not be made upon an estimate of the net annual value of the several hereditaments rated thereunto ; that is to say, of the rent at which the same might reasonably be expected to let from year to year, free of all usual tenants' rates and taxes, and tithe commutation rent-charge, if any, and deducting therefrom the probable average annual cost of the repairs, insurance, and other expenses, if any, necessary to maintain them in a state to command such rent.'"

The Earl of Selborne.

But, my Lords, that was not all. A proviso was expressly inserted in the Act, which was intended to secure the tithe-owners the benefits of the decision in the case of "*Rex v. Joddrell*" in 1830. That decision had specially limited the proportion of the value of his tithe for which he was rateable. But, my Lords, another case came before the Courts four years after the passing of that Act, and that case was known as "*Regina v. Capel*." The decision in this case had an enormous effect on the position of the tithe-owner, for it ignored the proviso expressly inserted in the Parochial Assessments Act in favour of the tithe-owner, and the decision in his favour in the case of "*Rex v. Joddrell*" was held to have been superseded by Section 1 of the Parochial Assessments Act. The result of that was, in the words of the Report of the Royal Commission, that :

"The Court held that under Section 1 of the Parochial Assessments Act, the vicar of a parish, receiving composition for small tithes, was to be rated on such receipt in the same way as the occupier of land, that is, on the sum for which the same would let free from tenants' rates and taxes and ecclesiastical dues."

But, my Lords, what is the comment, later on in their Report, of the Royal Commissioners on the effect of this decision ? They say :

"Such a rent-charge cannot be let, and never has been let, so far as we are aware, on an ordinary business footing, that is, to a tenant who seeks to secure a fair rate of interest on money invested, and, at the same time, has to provide for the necessary services and duties incidental to the holding of a benefice."

That is the opinion, not only of the Royal Commissioners at the present moment, but it was the opinion of the Courts themselves in the middle of this century. It is quite obvious, if you consider it, that you cannot proceed by analogy in assessing tithe rent-charge not severed from the benefice upon the basis of the rental value to a hypothetical tenant. In 1858 a very famous case, "*Regina v. Goodchild*," came before the Courts, and this is what Mr. Justice Coleridge said on the subject :

"If we were required to draw the terms of the proposition into strict accordance, it ought to have been held that the Statute did not apply to the case of tithe rent-charge at all."

because, if so interpreted, the tithe-owner would be placed in a different condition from every other ratepayer, and not be allowed deductions the same in principle as those allowed to every other occupier."

The learned judge then went on to show that the deductions allowed in the case of the occupier of a farm were totally inapplicable to the hypothetical occupier of tithe rent-charge not severed from the benefice, and he said it would be necessary, in order to apply the Act with any justice, to make allowances for the benefit of the tithe-owner which, although not mentioned in the Parochial Assessments Act, might be considered analogous to those which were. If this opinion on the part of Mr. Justice Coleridge had always been followed in the decisions of the Courts since he expressed it, I do not think, my Lords, any grievance demanding Parliamentary remedy would now be presented for your attention. The decisions of the Courts were at first favourable to the tithe-owner, giving him various deductions and so reducing the gross amount of tithe rent-charge on which he was rated, and after a series of these decisions—especially those known as the Hackney cases—the Poor Law Board issued an Order, dated September 4, 1858, in which they laid it down that deductions might be made from the gross value of the tithe rent-charge for rateable purposes, those deductions including, among other things, a reasonable sum for a curate's salary, if a curate was employed to supply necessary aid to the minister, and not as his substitute; the proportionate charge for the ecclesiastical dues and fees; an average sum for the annual cost of repairing the chancel, and, if the parish had been legally divided, and tithes had been severed, or a fixed rent charged upon the living in behalf of the new district, the amount payable to the minister of that district. Your Lordships will observe that those were very important deductions. The clerical tithe-owner was to be allowed to deduct a reasonable sum for a curate's salary; he was to be allowed to deduct an average annual sum for the cost of repairing the chancel, for which he was legally liable; he was also to deduct any sum which by statute he was compelled to pay to the incumbent of a daughter parish, and there were other deductions as well. If matters had always so remained, I doubt, as I have already said, if this question

would now be before your Lordships for your consideration. But what has happened? Notwithstanding the opinion of Mr. Justice Coleridge, notwithstanding the decisions of the Courts in the earlier cases, the Courts have found themselves more and more unable to read this Statute in a manner favourable to the unfortunate owner of tithe rent-charge, and they have gradually withdrawn from him deduction after deduction, until the case at present stands as follows: he is not allowed to deduct landlord's property tax, or land tax, or any sums for the repair of the chancel of the parish church, although he may be legally liable to do such repairs; he is not allowed to deduct anything for his personal services as parson or vicar, or for payments to curates, daughter churches, or to retired incumbents as pensions, or for sums paid to the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty in liquidation of loans contracted by the existing or by the former incumbent. We are, therefore, brought to this position. The Tithe Commutation Act makes absolutely definite and known to every ratepayer the amount of the tithe rent-charge not severed from the benefice; the proviso inserted in the Parochial Assessments Act with the special object of protecting the tithe-owner from the full effects of that Act fails in its intention; and the result is, that an utterly inexplicable principle is applied to the assessments of the clerical tithe-owner's rent-charge. The Courts, at first, allowed him generous deductions by analogy, but gradually, one by one, all those deductions were withdrawn from him; and finally, although his property has been fixed so that it never can be improved by any increase of public expenditure, he has to bear his full share, and a great deal more than his full share, of all new rates which are levied, with one or two exceptions with which I need not trouble your Lordships. As the Commissioners say in their Report:

"Tithe rent-charge is not only valued upon a high percentage of the gross value, but it has been made subject to rates for a large number of new purposes, the expenditure of such rates having no effect in the direction of improving the property. This, it is argued, is contrary to the principle of the agreement made in 1836. The Report of the Poor Law Commissioners of 1843, referring to this subject, says:—'But his rent-charge being from that time (the passing of the Tithe Act, 1836) a fixed income, which cannot be improved by any further improvements in the land, it

becomes after this time inconsistent with that principle which regulates taxation by the benefit derivable from a tax, that he should be forced to contribute, as tithe-owner, to any new rate, or to any addition to those old rates, which may be imposed for the improvement of property."

I commenced by giving your Lordships illustrations of ordinary cases of hardship caused by the present position of the law. I will now quote one which cannot be called common, but which is absolutely possible under the law as it at present stands. I take the case of a clerical owner of tithe rent-charge—a vicar—the present value of whose tithe rent-charge, when the deductions which are allowed have been made, is £600. By Statute he is compelled to pay to a daughter Church £150 a year; by another Statute he is compelled to pay to a retired incumbent another £150 a year; and he is also compelled to pay for the support of a curate, or for the maintenance of the chancel, or in liquidation of loans contracted by his predecessor, perhaps another £150 a year. Therefore, his real income is only £150, but he is rated on £600. At the rate of 2s. 6d. in the £, he has to pay, in rates, £75, or exactly one half his whole income. He pays on his tithe rent-charge alone the same as a man who lives in a house assessed at £600, and who presumably has an income of not less than £6,000 a year. This illustration shows how preposterous is the theory on which the present system is based—that a hypothetical tenant would pay an annual rent of £600 for a property of which £600 is the nominal gross annual value, but from which £450 is for various purposes compulsorily deducted by Statute. I think it is only necessary to state that theory to show that it is a preposterous one. I think I will have your Lordships with me when I say that I have succeeded in proving the existence of a grievance. Now, what is the remedy the Government proposes? The Bill which I ask your Lordships to read a second time does not pretend to be a permanent remedy for this evil. It is a temporary alleviation. It is approached by the Government as a rating question pure and simple, and from exactly the same point of view as we approached the Agricultural Rating Act of 1896. I will quote to your Lordships what Mr. Walter Long, the President of the Board of Agriculture, said on the

The Earl of Selborne.

28th April, 1899, with regard to that Bill. He said:

"The principle on which this measure was based was the fact that the agricultural ratepayer, as such, was called upon to pay his rates on a standard which put him in a position he should not be put in, and which was unjust as compared with the position of other ratepayers."

Applying that same principle, Her Majesty's Government approach this subject as a temporary remedy for a glaring case of unjust rating. A permanent remedy must undoubtedly be applied—it will have to be applied to the assessment—but we must wait until the whole question of rating can be dealt with. The fact that this Bill does not apply to all owners of tithe rent-charge does not imply that we do not admit that all owners of tithe rent-charge have a real grievance. We say that the owner of tithe rent-charge not severed from the benefice has a grievance so much greater than that of other owners of tithe rent-charge, that we are justified in dealing with this case as an exceptional one. Now, my Lords, the object being to provide temporary relief, I claim for our proposal that it is offered in the simplest, most direct, and most immediate form. We throw the cost upon the Local Taxation Account. What is that account? It has been the combined handiwork of both Parties in the State, but its principle and its *raison d'être* is to provide an assistance to the ratepayer from the personal property of the country. What has been the history of that fund? It has been one of continual and steady increase. In the year 1890-91 I find that the aggregate, roughly, of that fund was £5,800,000. In 1898-99 the aggregate had risen to £6,600,000, or an increase of £800,000. The argument against the use of this fund—an argument of which I have no doubt we shall hear something from my noble friend opposite—is that it is unjust to dip into this fund for the benefit of owners of tithe rent-charge, considering that the proportion in which the relief will be given geographically does not tally with the proportion in which the fund will be drawn from the various localities. It is said, in the case of London particularly, that if the amount to be used for the purposes of this Bill is assumed to be £87,000, London would have to pay £19,000 of that £87,000, and the London County Council urges

that it is unjust to take that sum from London, because the London clergy will only benefit to the extent of £900 under this Bill. I deny absolutely and altogether that any county has an inalienable lien on a certain proportion of this fund, and that Parliament may not, in its discretion, readjust the distribution if it thinks proper. What is the object of this fund? It is a fund which Parliament has created to enable Parliament, at its discretion, to alleviate local burdens, and, looking at those local burdens, Parliament is amply justified in saying that it will redistribute the amount which it gives to the different localities under this system. Not only have we to consider where the sum is most wanted, but also where the back is strongest and broadest. It is a very curious and interesting fact that this scheme of the Government works out so that the money goes to those localities which are less able to bear their burden of local rates, and the heavier share of the hypothetical loss falls on localities which have the broadest financial back. It has been said that it is a shame to take from London £19,000 of what they hoped to get out of this fund. But look at the case of London! The rateable value of London has risen in the last twenty-eight years from £17,000,000 to £36,000,000 sterling, while the counties which are going to receive the most benefit under this Bill—such as Norfolk and Suffolk—have actually suffered a decrease in rateable value during the same period. I am rather surprised that noble Lords opposite should dissent from the principle I am advocating, because it is one which they themselves applied under analogous circumstances. They required a much larger sum for dealing with swine fever in 1893, and they took it from the Local Taxation Fund; and, if it is a grievance to London to lose £19,000 under this Bill, how much greater was the grievance when London lost £34,000 by the action of the late Government in 1893? Therefore it does not lie with the Opposition to object on principle to this fund being applied to a redistribution of the method of assisting local burdens. That is the specific objection which is made to our method of providing relief. I will now, very briefly, touch on the general objections which are offered to the principle of this Bill. The first criticism, and the foremost, is that it is a fresh endowment of the Church of England. I am glad to

hear, from a cheer coming from the other side, that I have not inaccurately stated the forefront of the objection of noble Lords' opposite. Is it an endowment of the Scottish Church that the Scottish teinds pay no rates? Was it a universal endowment of Dissenters when the Church rate was abolished? The Church rate was a hereditary burden in any sense in which a rate may be called hereditary, and the abolition of that rate was mainly to the advantage of Dissenters. Such an objection goes to the root of all changes in or redistribution of taxation or rates, and seems to me to be perfectly untenable. The clergy who own tithe rent-charge are as much entitled as any other class in this country to relief if it can be proved that they suffer a hardship. Another argument is that we are going to pay the clergy over again for what they have already been paid. It has been said that the whole question of this liability for rates was considered in fixing the amount under the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836. That argument has been paraded over and over again in the House of Commons and has loomed very much in one of the most influential and one of the most respected journals in this country. It is a pleasant reflection to us ordinary mortals that even a great journalist may hopelessly blunder, because there never was a more perfect mare's nest than that which it was supposed had been found in this question. It has been said that in fixing the amount of tithe rent-charge, as commuted, the Commissioners actually inserted a column to show the amount they had added in each case in order to make allowance for this liability for rates. What is the real history of the case? A great number of the clergy had compounded with the tithe-payer to receive cash payment instead of payment in kind; of that number by far the greater proportion arranged, for convenience, that the tithe-payer should pay the rates for them and hand over the difference, and, therefore, when the Tithe Commissioners had to find out what the real amount of the composition was, they had to add to the amount the tithe-owner received from the tithe-payer the amount of the rates in respect of the tithe which the tithe-payer had paid for the tithe-owner. It is just the same in the case of a farm. The true rent of that farm is not the money the owner receives from his tenant, but the money he receives

from his tenant plus the amount paid for him as income-tax. This is the mare's nest which has played such an important part in the Debate in the House of Commons. The thing cannot only be demonstrated, but, luckily, the opinion of the Tithe Commissioners themselves is on record. In a Sessional Paper, No. 304, presented in 1838 to your Lordships' House, they say :

"In commutations for tithes no allowance is made for the future liability of the tithe-owners to rates. Such rates as have directly or indirectly been heretofore paid by the tithe-payers for the tithe-owner are added to the compositions for the purpose of getting at the sum which the parties have treated the tithes as worth during the seven years preceding Christmas, 1835, and making that sum the basis of the future rent-charge."

(Signed) W. BLAMIRE.
R. JONES.

That question is therefore definitely and finally set at rest. Another criticism upon the Bill is to the effect that it will relieve the rich and not the small tithe-owners, inasmuch as the larger tithe-owner will get most of the relief. That argument is disposed of by the fact that of the total number of cases 10,256 are under £500, and only 255 above it, and 7,263 cases do not exceed £160 a year. Parliament congratulates itself that by a course of wise legislation it has relieved all persons whose income is not more than £160 a year from income-tax, and yet those incomes would bear but a fourth of the burden to which tithe rent-charge is subjected. I doubt if a stronger case was ever presented to your Lordships' House. I cannot find any responsible authority who has ever denied the existence of the grievance. Look at the Report of the Royal Commissioners. Look at the names of the members of which that Commission was composed—men of great distinction drawn from all parties. The Report is signed by almost all. There are some additions made by Mr. C. A. Cripps, Sir John Hibbert, and Sir George Murray. But what is their addendum? Why, it strengthens the case instead of weakening it. I hear that that statement is doubted, but these gentlemen signed the Report, and they are responsible for all that is in it. They added that, in their opinion, the fact that no deductions had been allowed in a reasonable manner was a very prime cause for grievance. Mr. J. B. Balfour does not sign the Report, but does he object to the case?

The Earl of Selborne.

Does he say a word to suggest that the grievance is not real? No, my Lords, not a single word. Then we come to Mr. Arthur O'Connor, who adds his own Report. What does he say about the grievance? He says :

"I am, therefore, of opinion that the case of hardship has admittedly been made out."

The only Member of the Commission who does not admit it, either by actual words or by his silence, is Mr. James Stuart. But I would point out that in Mr. James Stuart's Memorandum there is a notable admission. He says :

"It is impossible to shut one's eyes to the fact that what the benefited clergy really suffer from is the fall in the value of tithe, and not from the rates, except in so far as those, like any other outgoing, form a charge on their gross income."

What an admission! Who else pays rates on his gross income? The mere fact of that admission shows how hard the case is. Mr. Stuart goes on to say that the case is really not so bad as is supposed. He says that before the Tithe Commutation Act, 1836, the tithe-owner generally paid rates at a much higher figure, and he quoted 10s. in the £ as a specimen figure of what the rates were in those days. That is really a complete misconception, and there is very little ground for the assumption. I admit that the case is not susceptible of proof, because the figures were not carefully kept before 1841. But it appears from Mr. Goschen's report on Local Taxation (page 17) that the average rate in the £ of all rates in England and Wales in the year 1841 was 2s. 7d. Therefore, my Lords, it is a complete misconception to suppose that the 10s. which Mr. Stuart puts forward can be taken as in any case a specimen rate in those days. It is not only the party at present in power which has taken a strong view with regard to the grievance of the clerical tithe-owner. It has played an important part in the election literature of the Party opposite. I hold in my hand a leaflet issued at the East Berks election, in which the Government is held up to the anger of the clergy for not having dealt with this subject. Strong views on the grievance have been expressed by Mr. Gladstone, and I will read to your Lordships the words used by that Statesman on three occasions. Speaking in the House of Commons, on December 16, 1852, Mr. Gladstone said :

"But, Sir, the clergy have a real grievance at this moment. It is admitted by all author-

ties. Professor Jones, Mr. Cornwall Lewis, and every man who has examined the subject of local rating will tell you that the clergy suffer cruelly by being rated for local taxation upon their gross incomes."

Speaking in the House of Commons on May 7, 1856, Mr. Gladstone said :

"He would respectfully press upon the House that after the universal admission which had been made as to the existence of the grievance, it would not be altogether creditable to allow small difficulties of detail to prevent the application of a remedy to that grievance. They ought not to fold their arms, and say, 'Although the grievance is plain, palpable, and even scandalous, we cannot, on account of difficulties of detail, attempt to provide a remedy.' It would be far better to apply a remedy which was open to some abstract objection than any longer to neglect the subject."

It may be said that these are ancient quotations, but one of the very last public utterances by Mr. Gladstone was on this subject. On May 4, 1897, addressing a meeting at Hawarden, at which the noble Duke, whom I see on the Cross Benches (the Duke of Westminster), presided, Mr. Gladstone said :

"In respect not only of the fluctuations of the tithe, but also from the mode in which the rates of the country are levied, the clergyman suffers more than is believed in various ways. He pays more in proportion than what he receives. In fact, it is even said that the Act of Parliament which was passed last year, for the purpose of relieving agricultural interests from the pressure of the rates, has actually gone to increase the pressure, so far as the clergyman is concerned. The case, then, so far as the clergy are concerned, hardly admits of being enhanced by anything in the nature of rhetorical statement."

I do not think that it is possible to put the case in stronger words, or more conclusively, than it is put in those three quotations, extending over a period of nearly fifty years. Having laid before your Lordships the real and cruel nature of the grievance, and the explanation of the remedy proposed to be applied, I thank the House for the patience with which they have listened to me, and move that the Bill be read a second time.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^a."—(*The Earl of Selborne.*)

***LORD RIBBLESDALE :** My Lords, in moving the rejection of this Bill, I think it will clear my decks, and perhaps save your Lordships' time, if I make, to begin with, three or four admissions. I grant you at once that tithes are closely rated, because the Assessing Committee can get at the exact rateable amount. I admit the justice of what has been

said by Sir G. Cornwall Lewis and Mr. Gladstone on the subject. The quotations from Mr. Gladstone extend over a period of more than forty years, and I merely say, in that connection, that Mr. Gladstone's appreciation of the grievance seems to have been of a philosophical kind, for, though he was frequently in office during the period, and was a great friend of the Church, he did nothing to remedy the grievance. I also grant that perhaps the operation of the Agricultural Rates Act, 1896, from which Sir Michael Hicks-Beach and Her Majesty's Government purposely excluded the rating of tithes, may, as the Commission say, in some cases have thrown additional burdens upon incumbents. Having made those admissions, I will turn to two or three of the points in the noble Earl's speech. The noble Earl seems to be very much enamoured of deductions. He read to the House a good deal about deductions, and what could be fairly said as to the injustice of the assessment, and he then went on to say that what strengthened his opinion very much on this point was the Report signed by Mr. Cripps, Sir John Hibbert, and Sir G. Murray, who said they thought something should be done by way of deductions. I venture to submit that that Report does not strengthen the noble Earl's case very much, seeing that the Government has ignored those recommendations. I think these three gentlemen intended to refer rather to a readjustment of assessment, but at all events the proposal does not touch the real mischief you want to remedy, which is the fall in the value of the tithe, the £100 stock in 1836 having fallen to £68 at the present time. I am not going to deal with the question of Scotch teinds, as this Bill is concerned only with England and Wales; and with so much legal talent in your Lordships' House I am not going into the question as to how Rex upset Joddrell, or how Capel afterwards upset Rex. The references to legal decisions I pass by with the observation that both parties at different times have had reason to share the opinion of Mr. Bumble with regard to the law. Naturally, the noble Earl has picked out those passages in the Report which suit his case, but I am not going to follow his example by picking out those passages which suit my case. The noble Earl's speech was a very adequate and able one. He explained clearly the provisions of the Bill and the operation of it,

and, so far as I can see by the look of the benches opposite, the noble lords behind him will also be quite adequate in their support of him when we go to a Division, as I hope we shall, as a matter of protest. The noble Earl has economised our time by not arguing one or two objections to the Bill, to which I shall presently refer. He said the grievance was very urgent now, and that that was the reason why this Bill had to be brought forward. I do not quite understand the urgency, because, almost immediately after what was held to be the secure bargain of 1836, the incumbents and owners of tithe rent-charge not severed from the benefice found that they did not like their bargain, and the Rev. Mr. Jones, in 1850, before a House of Lords Committee on parochial assessments, speaks of the eternal complaints and wailing of the tithe-owner. Therefore, there does not seem to be any very particular urgency. But the noble Lord takes the *justum et tenacem propositi* view of this bill, which was so resolutely taken in the House of Commons. I admire the tenacity with which the Bill was carried through the House of Commons by force of numbers. You have a very bad case, but you stick to it like men. As to the justice of the case, I join issue with the noble Earl. I think the justice in this Bill is of the abstract and indiscriminate sort, and, as detached from the special circumstances which it is called in to redress, as the stick of a rocket. I feel no surprise at all that this Bill has been brought in, because in 1898 the noble Marquess at the head of the Government received a deputation on the subject, and, from what the noble Marquess said to the deputation, it was perfectly clear that this question of tithes had entered into the "something must be done" phase, and my appreciation of that phase, from the reading of history, is that when that "something" is done it is nearly always something foolish, hurried, and very likely to embarrass the future. What I am surprised at, after what the noble Lord said to the deputation, is the very rough-and-ready character of this Bill. There does not seem to have been any attempt at the equipoise or delicacy of adjustment which I should have thought would have characterised a measure which most seriously affected the larger question of rating. The noble Marquess told the deputation that this question was clustered around with intricacies, en-

Lord Ribblesdale.

tanglements, and anomalies, and he took the most cautious and accurate bearings on the whole subject. Whether it is due to his hand being forced by not having admitted the tithe question in the Agricultural Rates Act or not, we are in this Bill again running on what I should call the Manacles of the noble Marquess's administration—a dole. How is this Bill recommended to us, especially in the other House? The noble Earl who has moved the Second Reading in your Lordships' House was more explicit in many ways, but in the other House the Minister for Agriculture, who managed the Bill admirably from his point of view, practically said: "The clergy are poor, and the tax-payers are rich; let us give them a bit on account, and it will never be missed." When he was pressed for figures, and it was pointed out that, although the value of the tithe rent-charge had fallen, there had been a corresponding fall in the rates, he said that was not the point; the rates were still too high by half, and they were resolved to set the matter right by compelling the taxpayer to pay the half. Now I do not mind so much the question of money. I rather agree with one of the Government's late supporters, Mr. Whiteley, who, in this particular connection, did not agree with the Government, and suggested that if it was only a question of £87,000, it would be better if private individuals put their hands in their pockets and found the money. My objection to this Bill is that in regard to it the Government are bringing in the principle of re-endowment. I know that a great many people do not admit that tithes are an endowment. I will assume for the moment that they are, and I will try to show your Lordships on what ground I think they are an endowment. The First Lord of the Treasury, in the other House, said he hoped he would hear no more trash about endowments. That was a very natural feeling, very naturally expressed, after hearing twice-told tales on this question—but is it altogether trash? I am not going into remote history of the Tithe question. You will be relieved by my not doing so, for a great authority on tithe, Mr. Prebendary Cove, in the beginning of 1816—I find the extract in the book written by the noble Earl's father—said:

"This institution (the institution of tithes) was contained in some unrecorded revelation made to Adam, and by him handed down to posterity."

I therefore take the Act of 1836 as the starting point of my survey. The Act of 1836 said that every tithe rent-charge payable in money instead of in kind, and permanent in quantity, shall be subject to all Parliamentary, parochial, county, and other rates, charges, and assessments, in like manner as the tithes had hitherto been subject. The noble Lord spoke about the hardship of an incumbent, who got part of his income from tithe rent-charge, being rated in a different way to the occupier of a house in the same village. Let me point out that there is nothing very extraordinary in that. Tithes are land, and tithes for the purpose of settlement have been affirmed to be land as near the present time as the Settled Estate Act of 1882. It is quite true that incomes derived from funds have not to pay such heavy rates as incomes derived from tithes, but no more have endowments, and unless you are going to alter the whole system, that cannot be held a hardship on the tithe-owner. He is in the same position as any other owner of land. Very well, by the Act of 1836, tithe rent-charge, though it was freehold, was made subject in the most express way to the obligation of rates, and rates were proclaimed a first charge on the ownership. I am sure the right Rev. Prelates will not dispute that point. Therefore, assuming tithe rent-charge to be an endowment, the net value of the endowment is the balance of the tithe rent-charge which gets into the incumbent's pocket after the payment of the rates. Under this Bill you are going to relieve the incumbent of half those rates upon his tithes out of the general Taxation Account of England and Wales. It seems to me that if that is so you cannot get away from the fact that by this amount of half the rates on the tithes you either re-endow or create a new endowment in favour of the clergy of the Established Church, at the expense of the ratepayer, and you do this without any warning of anything of the sort to the constituencies in 1895. Turning to the right rev. Prelates who represent the Established Church in this House, I would like to ask them a plain question. I believe it was Mr. Burke who said that the object of the union of Church and State was not to make the Church political, but to make the State religious. I acknowledge in the fullest way what the right rev. Bench have done in the latter direction, but what I should like to ask them is, how

far the object of making the State religious, and not the Church political, is being served and safeguarded by a measure of the kind proposed by Her Majesty's Government. Are you satisfied that this is a desirable way of dealing with the hard pressure upon your clergy? Do you feel comfortable about it under your lawn? The Report of the Commission speaks of "the acute sense of dissatisfaction" which animates the clergy of the Established Church owing to the present methods of assessing tithes for rating purposes. Will you get rid of that acute sense of dissatisfaction by creating it, and in a most disagreeable form, in the ranks of your opponents, to a man, and of many of your friends? My Lords, I am certain your poverty but not your will consents. I really am sorry to see the Church, at this particular moment in her domestic affairs, forced into what seems to me to be a very undesirable position in the eyes of their fellow countrymen, and what is it all for? What is the consideration for £87,000 divided up between 11,000 parsons. You are going to become the bondsmen of Parliament, and how is this £87,000 to be distributed? With any regard for the rateable ability of tithe owner? Not a bit of it. The noble Earl took hypothetical cases. I will take cases from fiction. I dare say your Lordships have heard of Parson Dove, in "Market Harborough," who rode the best horses, drank the best claret, and bred the choicest Shorthorns, and I daresay you have also heard of the Vicar of Hoggerstock, who, after providing for his house-keeping, had nothing to distribute to his children but his scholarship. Under this Bill Parson Dove and the Vicar of Hoggerstock fare the same. In Otway's line, "Justice is lame as well as blind amongst us." Sir Edward Clarke, in the House of Commons, argued that in a Bill of this sort rich and poor should fare exactly alike. I dispute that altogether. The manner in which the money is to be distributed is very objectionable, for the man with £150 a year will receive the same treatment as the man with £500. Income tax and death duties draw distinctions. Property only begins at a certain point. Why could not you have done the same, and said above this figure less, below this figure more? As to the financial part of the Bill, I should have been glad to hear what the Chancellor of the Exchequer had to say about it, especially

as he is an ex-Ecclesiastical Commissioner of long experience, and may be considered an expert. All we know is that in 1897 he said that the rating of tithe rent-charge "could not claim the kind or the amount of the relief given in 1896." Of course we are fairly accustomed to hear of a Bill being run through the House of Commons in defiance of the Minister from whose Department the Bill is supposed to emanate, and in this particular case there is nothing reassuring about the studied silence of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He may be heart and soul with you, but the suggestion, I think, is the other way. It seems to me that the Government have failed to find the right way of dealing with the subject, and that being so they have hit upon the wrong way. As regards the Fund from which this clergy relief is to be taken, the noble Earl said we had a very good precedent in the way swine fever was dealt with, but I do not see the connection between swine fever and the Established Church. There is no dissent about bacon; bacon is the autocrat of the breakfast table; there is as little dissent about bacon in England as there is conformity in Wales, and I do not see how the swine fever analogy works out in this particular case. In conclusion, I propose to summarise the grounds upon which I move the rejection of this Bill. I quite recognise that the only way to reform rating is to alter and readjust the incidence of rating, but what we want is the simplification of rating as well as its reform. I submit, then, that by the provisions of the Bill you are introducing a novel and far-reaching method of exemption, equivalent to re-endowment; that the Bill must further confuse the relations of local and imperial taxation, already complicated and perplexing enough; that this question of the incidence of rates on tithe should be dealt with side by side with the whole question of local taxation now *sub judice*, and which is already sufficiently complicated by previous exemptions; and that by dealing with the tithe question in this way you are, as it were, mortgaging by a first charge (resting on a new and outlandish principle) your powers of dealing equitably with the whole question of local taxation in the interests of the rate-payers at large. I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time this day three months.

Lord Ribblesdale.

Amendment moved to leave out "now," and add at the end of the motion "this day three months."—(*The Lord Ribblesdale.*)

*THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Lord BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH): My Lords, I think it will probably be expected that I should say something in regard to this Bill, on account of the fact that the case for it was made out before the Commission over which I have the honour to preside. But, my Lords, after listening to the speech of the noble Lord I am very much at a loss to find out what precisely is the case against the Bill which I am expected to answer. I do not understand the fact to be contested that the present position of the clergy of the Church of England who will be dealt with by this Bill is exceptional, and one of quite unparalleled hardship. I do not think the noble Lord who has just sat down attempted to contest the overwhelming amount of evidence which could be brought forward to establish that position, and therefore I do not propose to go at length into it. I will content myself with referring your Lordships to the conclusions arrived at by the Commission, after a prolonged and careful inquiry. Those conclusions have already been set out, and they are as follows:

- I. That the representations made to the Commission on behalf of the owners of tithe rent-charge not severed from the benefice have shown that the burden of local taxation upon such owners is unduly onerous, and that sufficient allowance is not made for the fact that the persons entitled to the rent-charge are under a legal obligation to render services and to perform duties in return therefor.
- II. That the case of the owners of tithe rent-charge not severed from the benefice is based on the ground, which we consider to have been fully established, that the present law, as interpreted by the Courts, works unjustly, and places those owners in a much less favourable position than other owners who are also occupiers of rateable property.
- III. That there exists an exceptionally acute feeling of dissatisfaction with regard to the hardship of the law as it stands.
- IV. That, in view of all the circumstances, although incumbents are not entitled to be wholly relieved from liability to be assessed to local rates in respect of tithe rent-charge—indeed, such a claim has not generally been made by witnesses who have appeared before us—yet, pending the final recommendations of the Commission on this and

the other matters referred to us, the case of the parochial incumbent owning tithe rent-charge not severed from the benefice may properly be met by some special measure of relief.

I do not understand that the justice of these conclusions is challenged, except, perhaps, the last one. The noble Lord who moved the rejection of the Bill, in his reference to Mr. Gladstone, said that Mr. Gladstone's appreciation of the hardship was not very acute, or he would have done something for them. I venture to think that perhaps the explanation of the fact that Mr. Gladstone did not remedy this injustice may be found in the temper of the majority of his followers. The noble Lord said we ought to have proceeded on the question of making deductions, and he attaches great weight to the Note to the Report signed by three of my colleagues. The answer to that is plain and simple. We cannot touch the question of assessment without touching all the ratepayers. That is a question of great difficulty and great complication, and will have to be dealt with with great care. What we say in the Report is, that the present state of matters is one of such exceptional hardship that no time should be lost in applying a remedy. The noble Lord also said that this was a question of re-endowment. I suggest that it is no such thing. It is a question of the taxation of an endowment, and, if the injustice of the present position is admitted, and if any remedy of this kind is to be considered re-endowment, I do not see how we shall ever be able to touch any rating anomaly or adjust any rating question at all. I myself came to this question without a great deal of personal knowledge of the precise position of matters, and I can assure your Lordships that, coming to it in that way, it was not long before I became as convinced as any of those whose opinions have been quoted of the extreme hardship to which the clergy are subjected in connection with this matter. I do not think much attention has been given to it, but there is a table in the Appendix to the Report which is very eloquent on the point. It gives eighteen cases from different counties. They have been in no way selected by us; they are those which were put before us. We took first the information which was given by the incumbents concerned. We carefully tested it by the production of the demand notes for their rates. We obtained returns from the overseers of

the parishes concerned, and in some cases we made an independent investigation of the rate books, and checked the returns of the tithe rent-charge from public documents. In one of these cases—I admit it was an exceptional case—the percentage of the rate which the owner of the tithe rent-charge had to pay amounted to 39 per cent. of the income from tithe rent-charge, and in ten of the eighteen cases it was upwards of 20 per cent. In other words, if the owner of a tithe rent-charge received £200 from that source, he would have to pay £40 in rates alone. The noble Lord who spoke last did not go further back into history than the Tithe Rent-Charge Commutation Act of 1836, and he quoted, as if it was conclusive of all the questions at issue, a paragraph from that Act. It said that every tithe rent-charge payable in money and permanent in quantity was declared to be subject to all Parliamentary, parochial, county, and other rates in like manner as the tithes had hitherto been subject. That is so; but everything turns on the expression “in like manner.” It is on that point that a great deal of injustice arises. I will not go into the history of all the Acts and decisions, but anyone who knows the terms of the Act of 1601, the famous Act of Queen Elizabeth, will find that the persons there to be rated are described as inhabitants and occupiers, and that the parsons and the vicars are not put among the occupiers, but among the inhabitants; and I think the great mass of authorities hold that that means that the parson shall be rated, not as an occupier, but according to his ability. Therefore, if the clause which the noble Lord quoted in the Tithe Rent-Charge Commutation Act is not detached from its context, and is taken to mean what Parliament must have intended it to mean, it is that the owner of tithe rent-charge was to be rated according to his ability as an inhabitant, and not as an occupier. As the noble Lord said, the Parochial Assessments Act of 1836 declared that a property was to be valued on the basis of the rent at which it might reasonably be let, with deductions for the cost of repairs, insurance, and other expenses. I agree entirely with what the noble Earl said who moved the Second Reading, and I will not add a word to it, as to the utter impossibility of fairly applying such a test as that to tithe rent-charge, which never has been let. Under a subsequent decision, that.

of "*Regina v. Capel*," it was decided that the owner of tithe was to be rated like the occupier of land. In the same year an Act was passed to exempt personal property from liability to rates, and a proviso was inserted in that Act to the effect that nothing contained in it was to affect the liability of the parson or the vicar or any occupier of land, houses, or tithes. Just see what the effect of that decision was. Occupiers of the property mentioned in the Statute of Elizabeth were exempted from the terms of the Act of 1840, which exempted personal property from rating; but, by the decision of the court, the parsons, although classed in the Act of 1601 as inhabitants, are treated as occupiers. The exemption would add to the burden of other ratepayers to some extent, and would, to that extent, be an injustice to them. But I think I am entitled to say that, having regard to the history of the matter, I believe it was the intention of Parliament that when the owners of personal property were exempted that owners of tithe rent-charge should be exempted also. I may be pardoned, perhaps, if I give an illustration from what happened in Scotland. The noble Lord who moved the rejection of this Bill alluded to the question of teinds. The first Poor Law Act in Scotland was passed in 1845. In that, by name, the minister was held to be liable to be rated, but so was every other owner of personal property. An attempt was made to rate all "means and substance"—the Scottish equivalent to rating inhabitants according to their ability; but that system broke down in Scotland, as it has broken down everywhere, and it was finally repealed and got rid of in 1861 by the Act which was passed by the Liberal Government of that day. That Act, which did away with rating upon means and substance of the general inhabitants, by specific words did away with the liability of teinds to be rated for the poor. I am afraid I do not quite understand the contention of the noble Lord who moved the rejection of the Bill about the deductions which ought to be allowed. The case that I should be inclined to put forward is this, that the question of letting value is inapplicable to the rating of tithe rent-charge. I do not believe that the intention of Parliament was effectually carried out by the Act of 1836. Certainly, the attempt to get

Lord Balfour.

an adequate amount of deductions from the tithe rent-charge on the ground of letting value has failed; but my point in regard to that is that it never was a thing which Parliament intended should be tried, and therefore it is not surprising to find that the enactments of Parliament failed to secure justice. The noble Lord said this scheme gives less relief where the burden is greatest. I do not think the noble Lord could have understood the contention of the noble Earl who moved the Second Reading of this Bill, because he explained, I thought with perfect clearness, that the scheme adopted by the Government would work out in this way that, generally speaking, where rateable value has gone down, and where, therefore, presumably, greater hardship and poverty in the matter of rating exists, the relief under this Bill will be the greatest. I understood the noble Lord who moved the rejection of the Bill to say that the poor rates had gone down, and that there was no case for the relief proposed. Assuming that the poor rate has gone down, there are two good answers to that, and the first is that the value of the tithe rent-charge has gone down owing to the action of Parliament. I shall not be accused of wishing to go back to the days of Protection if I say that it was probably owing to Free Trade—owing to the beneficent action of Free Trade, if you like—that the tithe rent-charge has been reduced. Therefore, if you make a claim on the ground that the poor rate has been reduced by better administration or by a combination of other causes, I do not think you should leave those other circumstances out of account; and, if the poor rate has gone down, other rates have been commuted by the wisdom of Parliament from which no corresponding benefit is derived by the owner of tithe rent-charge. I think I have touched on all the points, except one, which were advanced by Lord Ribblesdale. There is one matter upon which I want to say a few words. The noble Lord referred to a certain deputation which waited upon the Prime Minister in the summer of last year. Other people have gone further in insinuations than the noble Lord. I do not know that it would be becoming—I certainly do not think it would be necessary—to make any reference here to all the allegations which

have been made in partisan journals or in the heat of party controversy. But assertions have been made by persons who are in a position which render it necessary to take notice of their assertions that the Report from my Commission was brought forward by the desire of the Cabinet, and that the Commission had been turned in that way to a partisan purpose. I suppose when I say that there is not the shadow of a shade of foundation for any such allegation my statement will be accepted. I can give dates which will prove that the assertion is absolutely without foundation. The Commission was appointed in August, 1896. Early in 1897 we received a good deal of evidence on the valuation system in England and Wales, and at the same time many witnesses came forward on behalf of the clerical tithe-owners to complain of the hardship of their position. We were much impressed by the strength of the case which they made out, and devoted some time to a special inquiry into that matter. Amongst others we had Mr. De Bock Porter, Secretary of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, before us, and after hearing him, in the course of the summer of 1897, we decided upon the preparation of an interim Report on the subject of valuation and of tithe rent-charge. In November, 1897, the first draft of that Report was circulated by my colleagues. It was discussed by us during the months between November and January, 1899, and if it had not been for the special circumstances to which I shall allude it would have been presented at an earlier date. But during the months of February and March of last year a considerable agitation arose in regard to this subject, and we received some hundreds of letters from people in various parts of the country, many of whom were desirous of giving evidence, and others of whom made claims, which we could not possibly report in favour of. Under those circumstances, as a Commission, we came to the conclusion that we could not shut out that evidence without laying ourselves open to the charge of not having reported at full length. We should have been accused of not having fully heard the case before we made up our minds; and, therefore, we were obliged, in order to hear this further evidence, to delay the Report, and to select such evidence as, after having it before us, we thought it was necessary for us to hear. In the course of last autumn the Report was again dis-

cussed by my colleagues, and was signed and completed in January of the present year. I wish to say in the most distinct way that there is no foundation whatever for the statement that this Report originated in a suggestion made to my Commission or to me from any of my colleagues in the Government. It arose entirely because we were impressed with the justice of the case put before us, and it was on that ground, and on that ground alone, that the Report was signed. Is it to be supposed that Sir John Hibbert, Mr. Murray, and the others who signed the Report would lend themselves to such an action as that I have indicated? I have thought it right, on account of the prominence of some of those who have given this assertion currency, to make this statement somewhat fully in my place in Parliament. I do not think what has been said by Lord Ribblesdale breaks down the contentions of the noble Earl who moved the Second Reading of this Bill. In the whole experience of my political life I have never been more impressed with the absolute justice of a case that has been put forward, and I, therefore, earnestly hope that your Lordships will give this Bill a Second Reading.

LORD BURGHCLERE: My Lords, I am sure the noble Lord who has just sat down had no necessity to make the statement which he has made at some length with regard to the origin of the Report of this Commission. The subject of tithe rent-charge is one in which I was very actively interested when I was a Member of the House of Commons, and with which I was officially connected during the period of the late Government. Therefore I trust, my Lords, that I shall have your indulgence if I venture for a few moments to intervene in this Debate. I must confess that had I not reasons for speaking, I should have been somewhat tempted to do so after listening to the speeches of the introducer of this Bill and the noble Lord who has just sat down. The noble Lord the Secretary for Scotland, as we should have expected, spoke with ability and eloquence, and the noble Earl who moved the Second Reading of the Bill did so with great lucidity. But neither noble Lord has touched the question which seems to affect us more as politicians—namely, the principle on which this Bill is founded, and on which you found its methods and procedure. The noble Earl who introduced the Bill dealt

at great length upon the various hardships that befall the clergy of this country, and I gathered that if we were to repeal a great many Statutes and upset a good many judicial judgments, we should be able largely to increase the incomes of the clergy, and if the noble Earl's arguments mean anything, they mean that the whole of the taxation should be taken off that suffering body. There is no remedy of this kind in the Bill. Therefore I listened to the noble Earl's arguments with surprise. The noble Earl said that the late Liberal Government had used the same means of obtaining money under the Swine Fever Act. That is what a friend of mine calls the "pig and parson argument." The Swine Fever Act benefited the whole of the country—both the rural districts and the city—but this Bill is for the benefit of a special class, and a small class of the community. It is said that the Bill is founded on the interim Report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the subject of local taxation. I have read the Report of that Commission with the greatest interest, and I am bound to say that I can find nothing in it which bears upon the provisions of this measure. It is perfectly true that the Report affords an excuse to the Government for a plea of urgency in regard to this matter, and it is also true that in the body of the Report very hard cases are brought forward where the burdens press heavily on the clergy. But these cases are not remedied by this Bill. You have not touched the fringe of the question. I will take paragraph 95, which deals with the case of an incumbent who has to pay for a curate. We can understand the case in which a living was formerly a small one, yet sufficient for the maintenance of an incumbent and his family; in time, however, by some industrial accident, a small village may expand into a town, and in order to look after the spiritual needs of his parishioners the incumbent has to obtain one, two, or three curates. That seems a hard case which calls for a special remedy, but where is the special remedy in this Bill? It does not exist. It is true that, in the conclusions, the Commission draw attention to the fact that the burden of local taxation presses inequitably on clerical tithe-owners, and that there exists among them great dissatisfaction. We did not want a Royal Commission to tell

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us that. We have known the inequality of the incidence of local taxation and the inequality of the incidence under which tithe-owners are rated for the past sixty or seventy years, and surely, if the question has been before the country for such a long period, and if the relief which your Bill gives is of so very small a nature, it would have been wiser and more statesmanlike if the Government had waited a little longer and had dealt with the question of local taxation as a whole. Had this Report of the Royal Commission contained some scheme to settle this vexed question of local taxation, it would have been welcomed, if it was a just and equitable settlement, by everyone, and it would have avoided this most invidious discussion, and this most invidious distinction between clergymen and laymen which naturally arises out of the very essence of your Bill. I have ventured to ask on what principle this Bill is founded. The Minister in charge of the Bill in another place (Mr. Long), whose great talent in dealing with a very thorny subject I am sure is generally recognised, told us that this Bill was founded upon principles of justice. Well, I am obliged to use an argument that has been used over and over again, but how can you say that your Bill is founded on principles of justice when it deals with only clerical tithe-owners and leaves the lay tithe-owners out in the cold? We know what the real and only grievance is which tithe-owners have in regard to rating. It is entirely a matter of assessment. As your Lordships know, with regard to property rateable for other than tithe rent-charge it is usually rated much below its value, but with regard to tithe rent-charge everyone can find out the exact value of the tithe rent-charge, and in some cases it is rated nearly to its full value. I venture to say that a clergyman is not rated on his professional income, and I would even go further and say that for practical purposes, in the legal sense, he is not really in receipt of a professional income at all. I have said that an incumbent is not rated on his professional income, and it is necessary, though I will be very brief, that I should make an incursion into history in order to try and prove that fact. Everyone knows that from time immemorial a certain portion of the tithe was set apart for the purposes of the poor.

The noble Marquess the Prime Minister shakes his head, but there are other authorities than the noble Marquess.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of SALISBURY): The noble Lord said "everyone knows." That I deny as a matter of fact.

LORD BURGHCLERE: If everyone does not know it, it is, at any rate, admitted in very learned works on the subject.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: On what side?

LORD BURGHCLERE: I refer to the authorities that agree with me, and, in the same way, the noble Marquess can, if he likes, quote the authorities that are against me. The authorities which agree with me tell me that from time immemorial a certain portion of the tithe was set apart for the use of the poor, and in time, naturally, in consequence of this, not directly, but, perhaps, indirectly, when the clergyman had to pay the poor rate on his tithe, he was merely fulfilling the original duty of the tithe, and putting aside that portion which had always been put aside for the poor. I contend that the true professional income of the clergyman is the net tithe, and as the net tithe suffers no diminution at all from local rating it cannot be said that the clergyman is rated on his professional income at all. I said that the professional income of the clergyman did not in absolute legality exist at all, and I will tell you why I said that. The so-called professional income of the clergyman is tithe rent-charge, which is a freehold. I venture to ask whether any other professional income is a freehold. Moreover, as the income of the clergyman does not depend on his ability, his health, or the taste of his congregation, it cannot be compared with that of the ordinary professional man, who knows to his cost that it can often disappear at any moment. The professional income, as you call it, of the clergyman remains with him for his life. I have very strong legal authority to bear out what I have ventured to place before your Lordships. There is the case of "*Regina v. the Inhabitants of Sherford*," which is referred to in this Report, though what I am going to read to your Lordships does not appear

in the Report. In that case Mr. Justice Mellor said the hypothetical tenant would give the same price for the occupation of the tithe rent-charge whether the service was performed by the vicar, or was left wholly unperformed. The occupation in no case depends on whether the services are performed by the owners, or by curates, or not performed at all. This means that tithe rent-charge does not depend on the services of the clergyman, and therefore it follows that it is not a professional income in the true sense of the word. Therefore I think your Lordships will admit that the whole case falls to the ground. You cannot say that this Bill is founded on justice if you say to one man on one side of the hedge, "You shall receive relief because you are a clergyman," and to the man on the other side of the hedge, "You shall not receive relief, although your grievance is the same." I contend that this Bill is not founded on justice, but there is another principle on which the Bill might have been founded, which would have appealed more closely to our hearts, that of charity. No one who has lived in the country can be unconscious of the unmerited sufferings of many of the poorer clergy, in common, I am bound to say, with the poorer class of landlords, in consequence of the great fall in agricultural produce during the last twenty-five years. Had it been possible for noble Lords opposite to have brought in a Bill which would have relieved these gentlemen out of some fund from which the money might be properly taken, I am sure it would have been welcomed in every part of the House with the greatest enthusiasm. But this Bill does nothing of the sort; the Bill is a rating Bill. It therefore follows that the more rates a person pays—*i.e.*, the richer he is—the more he will receive under the Bill, and the less rates he pays—*i.e.*, the poorer he is—the less he will receive. In fact, my Lords, from the standpoint of charity, this Bill is the exact converse of a graduated income tax. The richer you are the more you receive; the poorer you are the less you receive, and that is the absolute effect of this Bill. You cannot, therefore, say it is founded upon charity. The true principle of the Bill, as I understand it, consists in the distribution of a certain sum of money, a very small sum, annually amongst clergymen in the country. Every clergyman, after the

passing of this Act, will receive an increase to his income in consequence, and he will receive it out of the Local Taxation Fund. This fund is made up of certain Imperial taxes which have been allocated to certain localities for certain specific purposes. The money is the absolute property of the Lordies to whom it has been allocated; it comes out of the pocket of the Imperial taxpayer in the first instance, and goes into the pocket of the local taxpayer in the second. If every taxpayer and ratepayer in this country was a member of the Church of England, I could quite understand that the Bill would be received *namine contradicente*; but, as your Lordships know, many taxpayers are not members of the Church of England. They have churches of their own to pay for, and now, for the first time since the repeal of the church rates, the Government are going to enable those taxpayers to say that they are forced to contribute to a church which is not their own. Among 11,000 people £87,000 is something under £8 a head, and for this miserable sum, I would call it, we are going to place an effective weapon in the hands of the enemies of the Established and Endowed Church. If ever there was a case of being penny wise and pound foolish, this is one. I shall vote against the Bill, not because I wish to deprive the clergy of any ultimate relief to which they are justly entitled, but because I believe I have shown that this Bill is not founded on principles of justice or charity; and I shall vote against it, above all, because I am firmly convinced that it would have been wiser and more statesmanlike to have waited for the Report on the whole question of local taxation, instead of giving relief to a special class, at a most inopportune time for the Church, and at the risk of awaking ancient prejudices and ancient feuds.

*THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY: My Lords, I do not intend to detain the House at any length; but as, of course, I cannot but be very much interested in the question now discussed, I think it my duty to say a few words on behalf of the Bill which has been so severely criticised. In spite of the arguments of the noble Lord who has just sat down, I still maintain that the relief of the clergy from the excessive burden of the rates is a matter of justice. It has been just urged that there is no justice in

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it because it relieves the clerical owners of tithes and leaves out of consideration the lay owners of tithes. The difference between the two is very great indeed. The clergyman has his tithe, but it is subject to a necessary obligation, and that obligation cannot be left out of consideration. Here is a man who receives, say, tithe to the amount of £200 a year, and for this he is bound to render service; and here is another case where a man receives the same sum from the same source, and he is under no legal obligation whatever. The noble Lord who spoke last said there is a difference between this and an ordinary professional income, because a professional income varies and depends upon a man's health. But it is not the case that a clergyman is free from obligation, and that he receives his tithe whether he discharges his duty or not; he is compellable in the discharge of his duty. If a clergyman falls ill, he must get assistance for the discharge of the duty, and his Bishop will certainly require him to do so; and there are cases very numerous indeed in which that requisition is made upon him, and he has to pay a very considerable sum comparatively from his reduced income to discharge his obligation. I say it would be very unjust to put upon the same footing the man with this obligation and the man receiving the same amount free from such a burden. It may even be that, in order to get a curate, a clergyman may have to pay £150 out of the £200, and are we yet to be told that the clergyman should be on the same level and receive no more consideration than the layman who receives £200 and has no obligation whatever? That position is not tenable for a moment. The two properties are not of equal value. Measured by any standard of value you please, a property with a burden of obligation upon it is not of equal value with property having no such burden. The rates press unjustly upon the clergyman, and this is not affected by the fact that the relief now proposed to be given does not help the layman; the layman's case is on a totally different footing. But it is urged there is no injustice, because a clergyman's income is not the whole tithe rent-charge, but the net tithe rent-charge after the deductions made—that is, after he has paid these heavy rates. Of course, it is possible to put it in that way and fancy that thus you get rid of the injustice,

but I doubt if any man in this House would admit it to be just that deductions should be made before his net income could be obtained, and that he should have nothing to do with these, and that he would have no right to complain though tremendous fines were imposed, for he could only claim his net income. You may say there are other circumstances in which the rates are unjustly heavy. I will not say this is the only injustice to be redressed. If we were really to go into the whole matter of the incidence of rates, I have no doubt at all that a good many other cases of injustice would be discovered; but I do not think you will find any other case in which an injustice is so great and in which it so seriously interferes with the comfort of the taxpayer. I do not think you will find any other case of which it is possible to speak in language such as that used by a great statesman like Mr. Gladstone through years and years, and in language such as that used by the Royal Commissioners. The Bill is no more than an interim Bill; it corresponds to the interim Report. It proposes to redress a grievance, not in the way, perhaps, it will have to be redressed by-and-bye, when the whole subject is brought under review. It is quite possible that some different mode may then be found of dealing with the matter, but the injustice is so clear, and those suffering under it are so hardly pinched, that a delay to remedy would be a disgrace to the Legislature of this country. The clergy have long suffered under this grievance, and this is a reason why we should act at once to set matters right until the time comes when we shall have legislative proposals to redress other rating grievances also. I do not want to go into Acts of Parliament and decisions of the Courts; others can handle those matters better than I; but I maintain that the country ought not to delay giving justice to men who suffer injustice, even though those men are clergymen of the Church of England.

***LORD DAVEY:** My Lords, the noble Earl who moved the Second Reading of this Bill drew a pathetic picture of a clergyman with a rent-charge of £300 a year, who paid rates on his tithe rent-charge and also on his house, and he compared his position with the position of a gentleman who was living in a house

rated at £300 a year, and who paid nothing on his income, which he derived elsewhere. Of course, that is a very touching picture; but, when you come to examine it, you find that the noble Earl might have said just the same, not only of the clerical tithe-owner, but of any person living on an income derived from land. By the law of this country hereditaments—that is, land or real estate—are the only subjects of rating; personal property is not rated. That may be right or wrong, but this Bill does nothing to correct it. It may be that when the Commission has reported, over which the noble Lord the Secretary for Scotland presides, something may be done in that direction, but in the meantime the picture drawn by the noble Earl depends for its truth, not upon anything connected with clerical tithe, but on the fact that on one side of the picture was a person who derived his income from land, and on the other side one who derived his income from personal property. We have heard a great deal about the present injustice. The right rev. Prelate has spoken in strong language of the “gross injustice,” but if I may venture to criticise the right rev. Prelate, I do not think he was quite so clear in his definition of the injustice, as he was emphatic in his denunciation of it. The Secretary for Scotland spoke of the “exceptional and unparalleled injustice” which clerical tithe-owners are subjected to. I have tried to find out what is exactly the character of the injustice which the clerical tithe-owner is said to suffer. What is meant by injustice in the matter of rating? It can only mean that there is inequality between the subjects rated. That is the only conception I can form of injustice in rating. All rateable subjects ought to be rated equally, and that is the principle which the English law has endeavoured to carry into effect. It may be that in particular cases the equality which is laid down by law is not observed, but that is due to no fault of the present law, but to the manner in which the assessments are made. I was rather surprised to hear the noble Earl, in moving the Second Reading of the Bill, speak of the construction of the Act of Elizabeth as an open question. Of course, there are people, even in this country, to whom nothing is settled, to whom a uniform course of decisions by the competent

Courts of this country for over 300 years is as nothing, and may be rejected as lightly as a decision in an Ecclesiastical case. The construction of the Courts for centuries has been uniform that tithe should be rated on the same principle as other property. That is the construction which has been put by the Courts of Law without any dissent on that Statute, and in your Lordships' House we are surely not going to treat a construction of a Statute having that authority as still a vexed and open question. A very great Judge (Mr. Justice Littledale) said :

"The Statute of Elizabeth makes a parson liable in respect of the profits which he receives as parson."

Similar expressions have been used by other judges. If that be so, if, during the last two hundred or three hundred years the tithes have always been subjected to the payment of parochial rates, then it is obviously a fallacy to speak of a clergyman's income as the gross tithe. He has never had the gross tithe, and the remuneration of the clergyman has always consisted, since the Poor Law Act of Elizabeth, of the gross tithe, subject to the deduction of the rate, and the net tithe is alone the income to which by law the clergyman is entitled. Let me say one word about the Parochial Assessments Act, under which this gross injustice is supposed to arise. I quite agree that the test of the annual value in that Act is not a very happy one, and I agree that it is not directly applicable to many subjects of rateable value. But if your Lordships will be good enough to look to the wording of the Act, you will see that there is one over-riding principle laid down in that Act: that rates are to be made on an estimate of the net annual value of the several hereditaments rated thereto. That is the principle laid down in the Act, and the principle which is now law. It means, of course, the full net annual value, and tithes being admittedly a rateable hereditament, the rate has to be paid on the net annual value given to them just the same as it is on the net annual value of a farm. What, then, is the grievance which is complained of, and which is said to be an exceptional and unparalleled injustice? From the speeches of the right reverend Prelate and the noble Earl who moved the Second Reading of this Bill, and also from the Report of the Commissioners, I gather that it is said to consist of two things. It is argued that the burdens of local taxation unduly press on the

clerical tithe-owner, that deductions ought to be made for the services which the incumbent of the parish is bound to render, and that the assessment of tithe-owners is unjust as compared with that of other rateable hereditaments. I venture to think that a very slight consideration of the matter will show that the argument is based upon a complete misconception. You do not rate property according to the value which it bears to the individual, but you rate it according to its abstract value as compared with other rateable subjects. I remember a case in regard to valuable docks, from which no income could be derived because the whole of the money had to be spent on public purposes, where it was said that the owners should not be rated because the income of the docks was not of any remunerative value to them. It was decided differently, and why? For the purposes of rating you must not look at the remunerative value of property to the man who receives the income; you must look to the absolute abstract value. A rateable occupation may be of no value to a man, but he has to pay on it whether it is remunerative or not. Noble Lords who consider this matter must see that it would be impossible to have any general system of rating upon any other basis. "The whole fallacy of the argument," said a learned judge in a case about thirty years ago, "is that the appellant is endeavouring to confound the rateable value to the poor rate with the remunerative value to the incumbent." To exempt the clergy would be an injustice to other ratepayers, and as to deducting the value of their services, I would like to ask how that is to be arrived at. The services of the incumbent do not help to earn the tithe, valuable as those services are. The tithe would be just the same whether the clergyman was lax or indefatigable in the discharge of his duties. It is a mere matter of arrangement whether the incumbent of the mother church receives the tithe rent-charge and pays the rates and then pays a certain sum over to the incumbent of the daughter church, or whether each pays its own proportion of the rates. The manner in which it is divided does not affect the rateable character or value of the tithe. Therefore, I contend that it would be introducing a new and perfectly impracticable system into the rating of this country if you attempted to rate people on the

remunerative value of the tithe rent-charge to the incumbent. It is said that the assessment of tithe-owners is unjust as regards the law. Well, my Lords, I do not deny that there are unions and parishes where the tithe is rated at its full net annual value, but where a deduction is made from the net annual value of other hereditaments before they are rated. Therefore, to use the language of Mr. De Bock Porter, who is referred to in the Report of the noble Lord's Commission :

"Tithe is rated more closely than other rateable hereditaments."

That is the grievance which was referred to in the evidence of Sir George Cornewall Lewis, which is quoted in the Report, and, so far as I can understand the quotations given by noble Lords opposite, it is also the grievance which was pointed out by Mr. Gladstone. But that grievance, although I admit that it is a very considerable one, is not a grievance occasioned by the state of the law. It is not caused by any defect in the mode by which the law directs hereditaments to be rated, but by laxity of practice, and all that would be necessary to correct that would be for any tithe-owner who suffers injury and injustice from a bad assessment to apply the remedy which he has in his own hands. He can at any time object to the rate as unequal. The real truth, when you come to think of it, is not that the tithe-owner is over-assessed, but that others are in some instances under-assessed, and that is really, when you work it out carefully, the substance of the complaint. No alteration in the law is required, except, perhaps, that it might be expedient to pass an Act—which would be welcomed, I am sure, on this side of the House as well as on the other side—to compel Assessment Committees to follow the words of the Parochial Assessments Act, and rate the net annual value of all rateable hereditaments—land, as well as tithes—instead of, as they do now in some instances, rating only a certain percentage or proportion of the net annual value of the land. But that is a grievance local in its character, and far less extensive than is generally supposed. It is a grievance which the clergy have the means of correcting. Four years after the passing of the Parochial Assessments Act this very complaint was made in a case in the Queen's Bench Division, and Lord Denman said that if any case arose

in which the facts showed that the rule in the Parochial Assessments Act would work injustice to the tithe-owner, there would be no more difficulty in relieving him than in relieving one landowner as against another. If one landowner thinks he is over-assessed, while another is under-assessed, he has his remedy. But if it is thought that statutory power is required to redress the grievance, the form which the Statute should take should be to make it obligatory on Assessment Committees in every case to assess rateable hereditaments, as they are instructed to do in the Parochial Assessments Act—namely, on the net annual value. It is also said that since the Tithe Commutation Act new rates have come into existence, and that rates are now levied for different purposes in addition to those which were levied at the time the Act was passed. That is quite true, but will any noble Lord say that the amount of rates payable per £ in the rural parishes of this part of the kingdom is as large now as it was at the time when the Tithe Commutation Act was passed? It may be an exaggeration to say that in some instances they were 10s. in the £, though I believe it is not, but I am quite sure the average amount of the rates per £ in rural parishes at the present day in England is much less than it was at the time of the passing of the Tithe Commutation Act in 1836. Therefore, my Lords, I do not think there is anything in the suggestion that new purposes have been introduced. I have only one more word to say. The most rev. Prelate said that you cannot contend that a man enjoys an income when that income is burdened. Well, of course, he has no remunerative enjoyment, or his remunerative enjoyment is lessened; but does the right rev. Prelate think that if a man has mortgaged his estate he should not pay the same rates as if he enjoyed the full remuneration? I am obliged to the right rev. Prelate for this suggestion on his part, for it illustrates the point which I have endeavoured to make, and shows the complete fallacy of looking at the remunerative value of the tithe to the incumbent, instead of to the rateable value of the hereditament.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: My Lords, I should not like this Debate to close without a few observations; but after so much has been said by my noble

friends behind me, and so many points of detail have been touched upon, I shall endeavour to make my observations as brief and as much to the point as I am able. There are one or two matters I desire to touch upon, because they present themselves to me not exactly in the light in which they have been placed before the House. One is the point on which my noble and learned friend who has just sat down has remarked, and to which several speakers before him naturally referred—namely, the complaint—a very old one—of the clergy that they are exposed to injustice on account of their interests being perfectly well known. The noble Lord who moved the Second Reading of the Bill quoted one piece of evidence given by Sir George Cornewall Lewis before the Committee of this House in 1850. This is the only quotation I will make, but I think it is only right, as one quotation has been made, to quote the other evidence which Sir George Cornewall Lewis also gave before the Committee. It was to this effect. He said :

“ I am not aware myself of any disadvantage to which the owner of tithe rent-charge is subject other than this ; that his cards are shown, whereas the cards of other ratepayers are not shown ; and in my opinion the most proper and equitable mode of redressing that disadvantage is to compel the other party to show all his cards, rather than to withdraw the whole of them.”

That shows that Sir George Cornewall Lewis, at all events, cannot be quoted in favour of such a remedy as this Bill intends to apply. But I have a further observation to make, and that is this : that in point of fact the cards are now shown. I speak from personal experience when I make the statement, because, as I know, the practice now is for the Government to supply, upon application from the Assessment Committees—and I believe they would always meet the application—a copy of the Income Tax Return. That Return does display the cards of every single ratepayer in the district, and it is a basis upon which well-informed Assessment Committees proceed. Therefore, as it seems to me, the notion—a very sound one before—that only the clergyman's income was known to those who had to assess the district, now has no foundation whatever. That is all I have to say on that particular point. I just now remarked that Sir George Cornewall Lewis would not have been in favour of the

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mode in which this Bill purposes to apply a remedy ; but another and a greater authority has been quoted, and quoted with great insistence from the other side, and that is the authority of Mr. Gladstone. Now, this I am perfectly certain of, as far as I can be certain, hypothetically, of what Mr. Gladstone, if he had dealt with this matter at all, would have done. Of this I am sure, that he never would have dealt with this matter piecemeal by way of what we call dole. On the contrary, he would have dealt with the question in conjunction with a reform of local taxation generally, which we all admit is an urgent and desirable measure. There are only one or two other remarks on particular points which I wish to make. One refers, not to a speech, but to a remark made by the noble Marquess as to a statement made by my noble friend behind me, that clerical tithe was formerly subject to contribution for the relief of the poor.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY : Will the noble Earl allow me to correct him ? The statement I objected to was that “ everybody knew.” I entirely deny that everybody knew it, because I did not know it, and therefore everybody did not know it.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY : I have, of course, the greatest respect for the opinion of the noble Marquess, but, when authorities are referred to, I think it only right to point to this passage in a document, which I must presume the noble Marquess has read, namely, the Report of the Poor Law Commission of 1843. In this Second Report of the Royal Commission on Local Taxation, in page 9, they say this :—

“ It is stated in the Report of the Poor Law Commissioners in 1843, that before 1536 the relief of the poor had been a legal charge, but undefined in amount, on the revenues of the secular clergy, aided by the many exclusively charitable foundations, and by the regular alms of the monasteries and religious houses, collegiate churches, hospitals, and cathedrals.”

At all events, the Poor Law Commissioners of that day—and they were a body for whose opinion I think we should always entertain a high respect—were of opinion that there was foundation for the statement that the payment of clerical tithe was originally subject to a

contribution towards the relief of the poor. I do not labour the point much ; I merely mentioned it in defence of my noble friend behind me with reference to the observations of the noble Marquess. Now, my Lords, it seems to me that as regards the income of the clergy my noble and learned friend who has just spoken has put the point very clearly. I cannot myself see at all how the possession of property which is subject to some particular duties on the part of the incumbent entitles him to bear a less share of the local burdens incident to the property in the locality in which he lives than if he had not been subject to such duties. The very tenure upon which he holds it is the performance of these duties ; that is the title-deed of what we may call his estate ; and I do not see that any portion of that money which can be properly raised from that part of the fund arising from the cultivation of the land ought to be subject to less charge because of the circumstance that the possessor of that particular property is liable to perform particular duties. As a matter of justice, I cannot see that there is any reason whatever for it. It is a property which from extremely old times, in the shape of tenths of produce, has been assigned to the Church and held by them. That property has been subject, at all events from the time of Queen Elizabeth, for the payment of this rate, and although undoubtedly if you go into a general revision of the system of rating, and you come to the conclusion that as between different classes of property in this country some change should be made, it would be right to hear any point which the clergy have to put forward, yet I do not see, on the ground of justice simply, any sound ground for suddenly—for I think it is very suddenly, considering that it was not dealt with under the Agricultural Rating Act—finding it necessary to give what I must call a dole to all the clergy, to relieve them especially from a portion of the rates to which their property has always been subject. Many of us are extremely surprised that this matter was not put by the Government opposite on the same footing as the Agricultural Rating Bill ; and we all remember—what is still more singular—a speech by a most important authority, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in which he took a view which seems to me to be exactly antagonistic to the course pursued by the

Government in this case. My Lords, the general question of rating is one which some Government must deal with. The general question of rating, I am afraid, will not be solved by the expedient suggested by my noble and learned friend behind me. I fully admit that to secure a perfectly fair and equitable assessment of all property will tax the energies and the wisdom of the most experienced statesmen of this country. It has puzzled Commission after Commission. It has puzzled some of the most acute men I know. Curiously enough, I was a member, so long ago as 1850, of the Committee of this House which then considered this subject, and I know well, though I was a very humble member of it, that the Committee separated without having been able to come to any satisfactory conclusion. I only hope that in our time we may be able to deal with the matter in a more complete and comprehensive manner. But, my Lords, we are told that this is not a question of the poverty of the clergy, but that it is a question of justice. If it were a question of the poverty of the clergy I should still feel a very serious and grave objection to any such grant from the public Exchequer as practically this Bill makes to the clergy. It is impossible to deny that this is placing upon the ratepayers of this country generally a charge in order to relieve the clergy from what is said to be an injustice—that is to say, that whereas a large fund has been appropriated to the use of the different local authorities, and paid to them yearly according to the produce of certain taxes, now a certain part of this is to be diverted from that fund—that is to say, taken out of the pockets of the ratepayers who have hitherto enjoyed it—taken from the City of London and taken from all parts of the country—and put into the pockets of one particular class. I say that that is unjust and unfair to the other portion of the community. It is unjust to those ratepayers who derive no benefit whatever in the matter, having very few tithe-owners probably in their district. It is unjust to the people of the towns, whose rating system is interfered with in this unfair manner. And here I must express my—I will say astonishment at the statement of the noble Earl who moved the Second Reading of this Bill. I most willingly and gladly recognise the ability and the clearness and the moderation with which

the noble Earl stated the case for the Bill, but one particular point which I must refer to has created a great deal of astonishment in my mind, and that is when the noble Earl argued that it was perfectly defensible to take any portion of that fund for the purpose of alleviating any distress or grievance there might be. My Lords, the allocation of that fund is fixed in the most natural and just manner, namely, that the amount to be paid in every county or district or city is calculated on the amount of assessed rateable property in that county or city, and to take from that fund specially any particular portion of the fund is, I think, a violation of the fair pledge and promise which was given by the Act to all the local authorities throughout the country. I cannot conceive—quite apart altogether from the merits of the particular case we have before us—that anyone would really insist on that argument, because if it were widely applicable it would lead to consequences most embarrassing, and it seems to me most unjust. My Lords, I have no wish to trouble the House upon minute points which have been argued so often, but I must confess that my objection to the Bill is a much broader one. I object absolutely to money being taken in any form from the pockets of the taxpayers of this country to add an additional endowment to the clergy of the Established Church, for that in effect is the result of the proposal to pay half the rates of the tithe rent-charge owner. To relieve the clergy of half the rates they have hitherto paid will increase their incomes by exactly that amount; that is a new endowment, and I believe that to create any new endowment of the Established Church is contrary to the principles upon which we have now acted for generations; and I believe, further, that if there is any one thing more likely to increase the most grave dissatisfaction, which it is impossible not to see now exists with the Church of England among very large classes in this country—a dissatisfaction which I fear is increasing, and which may possibly lead to very grave consequences—if anything is likely to increase that feeling, and to make it more difficult to settle questions which all well wishers of the Church will wish to see settled, it is that the Government in any form whatever should make it clear to large bodies of the taxpayers of this country, a very

The Earl of Kimberley.

large portion of whom are not Churchmen, that money is taken out of their pockets for the purpose of endowing the clergy of the Church of England. Believing that this is a most dangerous, disastrous, and unjust policy, I shall vote with the greatest satisfaction against the Second Reading of this Bill.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: My Lords, at this hour of the evening I shall be very brief. I wish first to make an observation with respect to an interruption I made during the speech of the noble Earl opposite. I was surprised to hear that old story revived about the division of the tithe among the poor and the clergy, after the complete destruction of it in the book of the late Lord Selborne. I have not got the book here, because I did not expect the question to arise, but it is a very well-known passage. If I recollect it aright the purport of it is that no one has produced or ever will produce a record of any such division as that mentioned by the noble Lord as having actually taken place. Therefore, I felt justified in denying at once the authenticity of a story which has already been too much published abroad. I ought also to say a word with respect to the definition of what constitutes value given by the noble and learned Lord opposite. He said that value was wholly independent of its remunerative character to the person who received it, and it was on that account that he and others insisted very much on the similarity between lay and clerical tithe-owners, and that in the distinction that was made between them in the Bill there was an element of evident injustice. Now, I find that the definition in the Parochial Assessment Act is different from that of the noble and learned Lord. There is not that subtle distinction between remunerative value and value that is not remunerative.

LORD DAVEY: There is nothing about that in the Act.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: What the Act says is:

“No rate for the relief of the poor in England and Wales shall be allowed by any justices or be of any force which shall

not be made upon an estimate of the net annual value of the several hereditaments rated thereunto, that is to say, of the rent at which the same might reasonably be expected to let from year to year."

LORD DAVEY: That is the mode of ascertaining the net annual value.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: I myself have the pleasure of being to a very small extent a lay impropriator. I conceive that it would make the very greatest difference in the estimate of anybody who wished to hire my privileges, whether I had to conduct two services on the Sunday or not, and it is absurd to say that a tithe rent-charge is of the same value whether or not it is burdened by a difficult and laborious charge. But, my Lords, we are not dealing with that here—we have not introduced a Bill to deal with subtle metaphysical distinctions. We have introduced it to remedy an obvious and patent injustice. It is a grave injustice that whereas the parson ought to be rated on the same principles as the other occupiers, you find, in fact, that the deductions which settle the amount and proportion of rating are very much more favourable to the agricultural occupier than they are to the parson who holds the tithe. That, however you like to explain it, is the actual fact, and that is the injustice we wish in some sort to remedy. I do not wish to dwell upon points which have been already adequately dealt with, but I wish to call attention to just one circumstance on which I think sufficient stress has not been laid in this Debate. We are very much attacked for the source from which we have drawn this relief, and it has been stated that we ought, before relieving a patent and pressing injustice, to have entered into the consideration of a scheme for recasting the whole of the complex fabric of English rating. My Lords, this is a transitory Bill; it is only to run for two years. I do not know whether it has ever occurred to noble Lords opposite that one of the most important provisions in the law of rating, one of the most far-reaching and widespread—namely, that which exempts personal property from being rated—is not part of the stable, fixed statute law of the country. It is re-enacted every year, and that formal

process has gone on ever since 1840. This year you will be again asked to assent to a law by which personal property shall be exempted from rating. By doing so you will not only be consenting that that shall be the case, but you will at the same time lay down that the exemption of personal property is not fixed and accepted for all time, but from year to year, and which any year you may abandon. How has the law of rating got into this extraordinary condition? If you will refer to this interim Report, you will see it is intimately connected with the subject we are now discussing. In 1840, in a certain case, the judges decided that personal property was still subject to rating. The announcement created the greatest panic, and the Government of the day were very much pressed by Sir Robert Peel to put an end to the difficulty and introduce the requisite amendment in the law of rating. But it was not done. Simply this temporary Act was passed, which has gone on being renewed every year from that year to this. Mr. Coode, a great authority, was asked in 1846 why the Bill was made a temporary one, and he replied:—

"Because there were then various matters in question, especially the rates of the clergy, with tithe-owners in respect of their tithe, and in order not to prejudice these pending questions the Bill was made annual, the Government at the time contemplating, I think, a general dealing with the subject."

Now, my Lords, that shows that this question of tithe rating has been now for half a century looked upon as in an unstable and transient and ephemeral condition, and Parliament has always, apparently, judging by this yearly ceremony, looked forward to a period when it should deal with the great problem and riddle of rating, and when it should try to abolish the extreme injustice which throws this vast expenditure on a kind of property that is only one-fifth of the whole property of the country. I join my hopes to those of the noble Earl that Parliament may undertake that task, but I do not envy any Government that has to do it. Clearly the tithe question is, like the personal property question, in a transitory condition. In that condition we find it now, after half a century. We cannot in reason ask those who have suffered under this wretched state of things, especially at this period of their extreme distress, to go on trusting in the prospect of our

being able to amend the whole law of rating within any early time. If we can do it, so much the better; but, between that time and this something must be done to relieve the distress under which the clergy are suffering. At all events, if Parliament is indolent, or Parliament is unable to undertake this task, do not let the clergy go on suffering year after year for a fault which is not their own. Let this money, which is contributed from the general taxation, be paid in order to offer, I will not say compensation, but an adequate substitute for a more just law of rating. Pass it only in a temporary form; hope that you may be able to deal

with the whole subject and to avoid all modes of remedy which shall be exposed to any kind of cavil or censure; but, until that end is attained, and while the grievous period in between has to be passed by the clergy, let us give to them this, which is only a sad and sorry compensation for all the wrong that they have suffered at the hands of the Rating Law since the year 1836.

On Question, whether "now" shall stand part of the motion, their Lordships divided. Contents, 113; Not Contents, 23.

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Chesterfield, E. [<i>Teller.</i>]	Braye, L.	Ribblesdale, L. [<i>Teller.</i>]
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The Marquess of Salisbury.

Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday next.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON ACT (1898) AMENDMENT BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order); Bill reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^a To-morrow.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD (IRELAND) BILL.

To be read 2^a on Thursday next.—(*The Earl of Denbigh.*)

POST OFFICE—HALFPENNY RATES.

LORD MONKSWELL: My Lords, I rise to ask the Postmaster-General if he proposes permanently to revoke the permission confirmed in 1876, and subsequently acted upon for more than twenty years, to send the filled-up rainfall forms of weather sheets at the halfpenny rate of postage; and to move, "That in the opinion of this House the rules governing the transmission of documents by the halfpenny post are anomalous, unsatisfactory, and difficult to interpret, and ought to be amended." I submit, my Lords, that the first part of my notice of motion invokes sympathy for a useful and perfectly inoffensive class of persons, namely, meteorologists. The action of the Post Office inflicts upon meteorologists a certain amount of fine. I do not myself believe that the noble Duke the Postmaster-General was the originator of this scheme for a raid on the meteorologists; I am inclined to think that the Chancellor of the Exchequer is the person who is responsible, because there is always difficulty in getting money wherewith to deal with various demands that are made by Her Majesty's Government, and I imagine that the proposition is to raise the wind by taxing the meteorologists. Now the Post Office is certainly no respecter of persons, for the person who is principally affected by this new regulation is Mr. Symonds, a member of the Royal Society, who has lately had the distinction of receiving the Albert Gold Medal for Science, and is certainly one of the foremost meteorologists of this country. Now, my Lords, the state of facts is this. In 1867, Mr. Symonds had prepared certain rainfall forms, which he distributed broadcast by correspondence throughout the country.

From 1867 to 1876, that is to say for nine years, those rainfall forms, when filled up, were sent back to him at the charge of a halfpenny for postage. In the year 1876 the Post Office surcharged one of these forms. Mr. Symonds protested; he asked for an apology, and he asked for a return of the money. The apology was made and the money was returned. Ever since that time, up to about a year ago, the Post Office has always allowed these rainfall forms to go for the halfpenny rate of postage—with this rather curious exception. Considering that these rainfall forms were distributed by the thousand all over the country—I believe something like 2,000 forms are returned every year to Mr. Symonds—one would have supposed that from 1876 to 1898 the Post Office would have known their own minds, and would have consistently either charged the halfpenny rate or surcharged the halfpenny; but in point of fact they did neither. Every now and then Mr. Symonds had a demand made upon him for the penny surcharged. He always resisted it, and the penny was invariably brought back to him by a postman. Now, not only did Mr. Symonds himself send out these rainfall forms, but he allowed various friends of his to use these forms. Amongst those friends of his may be mentioned the President of the Royal Meteorological Society. From 1888 to 1898 the present President of the Royal Meteorological Society, in his capacity as Secretary of the Croydon Natural History Club, sent out, with Mr. Symonds's consent, these halfpenny forms, and in no one instance was there any surcharge made. It certainly is a very remarkable thing, considering the number of forms that were sent, that the Post Office should put themselves to the trouble of occasionally making the surcharge, which involved them not only in the trouble of making the surcharge but in the trouble of apologising and sending a postman back with the penny. Then it would seem that the Post Office determined also to take the Colonies under their protection. Mr. Symonds had some of these forms back returned from the Colonies. The Colonies agreed to allow them to go at the lower rate of postage, but when they came to Mr. Symonds he was surcharged threepence. Mr. Symonds is not aware whether the threepence went to the Colonies or not. I do not quite

understand why the Colonies should not be allowed to look after themselves in these matters. Now with regard to the general question of the halfpenny postal rate, which is the second part of my notice of motion, the meteorologists ask that they may be placed in the same position as they always have held, and in the same position that is now occupied by a stockbroker who sends round a circular, or a tradesman who sends round receipts or invoices. I have no doubt the noble Duke will not be at all astonished when I tell him that not only the meteorologists have their grievance against the Post Office in reason of the halfpenny postal rate, but also tradesmen have their own special grievance. I will only give one instance at this late hour of the evening to show the kind of grievance against which the tradesman protests. The Post Office rules with regard to receipts and invoices and matters of that character which are sent by the halfpenny post so far as material are as follows. The "description of document" that may be sent at the halfpenny rate includes :

"Invoices, orders for goods, advice notes, way bills, bills of lading, receipts, statements of accounts, prices current, market reports."

Then there are some conditions annexed on which the trouble arises, particularly this :

"That any matter . . . which may be in the nature of a letter shall be only in print and shall relate exclusively to the subject matter of the document or the terms on which business is transacted by the person or firm from whom the document issues."

I am not perfectly certain that if the Post Office were construing these conditions in what I might call a fair and business way there would be very much to complain of, but now I will show your Lordships how the Post Office act with regard to these matters. A certain firm of bootmakers in Leeds have a printed form as follows :

"We beg to acknowledge receipt of £... for ... pairs of boots,"

and at the end—in print, not in writing—is put this :

"Your esteemed order is put in hand and shall have our best attention. Yours faithfully."

The Post Office surcharge this circular; and the reason they give is I think rather

Lord Monkswell.

peculiar. The firm in question, having no better means of redress, wrote to Mr. Henniker Heaton, who is very much in the habit of looking after Post Office matters. I would like to read to your Lordships this passage from their letter. They say :

"We have been in the habit for a number of years past of sending receipts similar to the one enclosed, and which is marked 'A,' and until the last few weeks we have not had any complaint whatever; but a few weeks ago the Post Office authorities detained some of them, and wrote informing us that they required another halfpenny stamp before they would send them off, or, if sent off, the addressees would be surcharged one penny. We have looked up the Post Office regulations, and on page 5 (which we now forward you marked 'B'), paragraph 'F,' the conditions on which receipts can be sent by the halfpenny post are set forth. There cannot be any question that we have complied with the first part of the section. This the Post Office admit, but say that in consequence of the words 'Your esteemed order' being put on receipt, we are contravening the second part of paragraph 'F,' as it does not relate exclusively to the subject matter of the document. With this we disagree, as the receipt has reference to a certain pair or pairs of boots, and the words above quoted have reference to the same boots and no others."

I certainly do not understand on what principle that surcharge has been made, unless it is the principle that has been mentioned in the House of Commons, which is that you must not use any word whatever that can by any possibility be considered as surplusage. For instance, you may write on a receipt "received," but you may not say "received with thanks." That is totally illegal; you must pay another penny if you want to say "received with thanks." Then, you may say "your order has been executed," but if you say "your esteemed order has been executed" you must pay another penny. Really, my Lords, it seems to me that this is the merest pedantry. Why on earth should the Post Office presume to dictate to the community the exact terms in which they should send or acknowledge orders? Is it not ridiculous, if people like to use the phrase "esteemed order," that they should be placed under this kind of fine for using such an expression? Perhaps I have framed my motion rather badly, because, in point of fact, I should be satisfied if the noble Duke were to consider whether he could not import some modicum of common-sense into the interpretation

of these Post Office rules, instead of their being absolutely pedantic, as it seems they are. There is another point with regard to newspapers. A supplement to a newspaper, if it is sent alone, is charged a penny; if the whole newspaper is sent with the supplement it is only charged a halfpenny. I cannot imagine what justification there can be for that. Then, again, you are allowed to send your printed cards at the halfpenny rate of postage, but if you put on your card "with kind inquiries" you must pay the penny rate of postage. The peculiarity of all this is that there does not seem to be any method in what the Post Office does. It has been held that if an author sends his book to anyone he may write on it "with the compliments of the author." If you can do that, on what ground can it be said that you should not be allowed to put on your visiting card "with kind regards"? I should suggest that either these rules are in need of thorough revision, or else the Post Office should do their best to import something of what I may call common-sense into the construction they put upon the rules.

Moved, to resolve, "That in the opinion of this House the rules governing the transmission of documents by the halfpenny post are anomalous, unsatisfactory, and difficult to interpret, and ought to be amended."—(*The Lord Monkswell.*)

THE POSTMASTER - GENERAL
(*The Duke of Norfolk*): My Lords, I can assure the noble Lord that I have done my best to see if it is possible to continue the practice of charging only halfpenny postage on the meteorological returns to which he has referred. There is really no deep plot against the interests of the Royal Meteorological Society. The fact is that we have found that for many years these forms have been charged at the halfpenny rate, though there was no legal authority for doing that. The society has for some years been reaping the benefit of our remissness in this respect. Now that the attention of the Post Office has been drawn to the matter, we find that we have no legal option but to adhere to the practice which has now been started

of charging the full rate for these returns. This position, no doubt, does lead up to the second part of the noble Lord's notice of motion, namely, the extreme difficulty of dealing always with every case on an equal footing as regards these rules. The real fact is this. Certainly I find at the Post Office—I imagine it is found in other Departments as well, but probably chiefly in the Post Office—that any concession whatever which is made to the public is sure to lead to a great many difficulties; any claim made in respect of one matter opens the door to a great many claims of a like nature, and it is found impossible to grant everything that is asked. When an effort is made to meet those claims which seem to be just, further concessions are certain to be asked for, and those in turn lead to further difficulties. I do not for a moment deny that there are certain aspects of the regulations of the Post Office which may merit the terms used by the noble Lord in his notice of motion, "anomalous, unsatisfactory, and difficult to interpret," and I quite feel that the instances which the noble Lord has pointed out are very difficult ones to deal with. The present state of matters has really arisen out of the efforts of the Post Office to meet the wishes of the public. In about 1892 efforts were made to meet the anomalies which arose under these regulations, because all the absurdities and difficulties which the noble Lord has pointed out were keenly appreciated. Instead of leaving it to the rule that anything not in the nature of a letter should be allowed to pass at the cheaper postage rate the Post Office did draw up certain rules, one of which has been quoted by the noble Lord. That was an endeavour to inform the public distinctly what might and what might not pass at the halfpenny rate. While that led in certain directions to simplification, it undoubtedly raised many other issues and difficulties. Now, my Lords, speaking for the Post Office, while I cannot accept the somewhat sweeping motion of the noble Lord, at the same time I can assure him that these matters are constantly having our attention. If we may hope to be aided by his own shrewd common-sense, any practical suggestions with which he may

favour me I shall gladly give careful attention to. At the same time, judging by our past experience, and knowing the difficulties of the position, I am afraid I cannot hold out any hope that it ever will be possible to frame rules and regulations or to carry out any interpretation of those rules and regulations which will not always be open to objection or difficulty in one direction or another. That we have done as much as might have been done in the past I do not venture to assert, although I honestly believe that the difficulties have been coped with as far as could be. I am afraid I cannot give a favourable answer to the first part of the motion of the noble Lord, but I can assure him that any practical suggestion from any quarter, and especially from himself, will be heartily welcome by the Post Office.

LORD MONKSWELL : My Lords, in withdrawing my motion may I be allowed to say this? The noble Duke is under a misapprehension in supposing that I made my remarks in the interests of any particular society, the Croydon Club or any other society. My point was that for more than thirty years certain particular forms had been sent everywhere at this rate and had come back to Mr. Symonds without surcharge, and I do not quite understand the difficulties which led the Post Office to alter regulations which had been acted upon for thirty years.

THE DUKE OF NORFOLK : I can only say, my Lords, that under the terms of the Royal Warrant by which we are governed in this matter we find we are not justified in allowing these returns to be circulated at the halfpenny rate.

LORD MONKSWELL : Then perhaps the noble Duke will consider whether the terms of the Royal Warrant to which he has alluded may not be altered.

Motion (by leave of the House) withdrawn.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes past Eight of the clock till To-morrow half-past Ten of the clock.

The Duke of Norfolk.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 24th July 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [Lords].

Standing Orders not previously inquired into complied with.

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, that in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz. :—

SOUTHPORT AND LYTHAM TRAM-ROAD BILL [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

CENTRAL LONDON RAILWAY BILL

FISHGUARD AND ROSSLARE RAILWAYS AND HARBOUR BILL.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY BILL.

MANCHESTER CORPORATION (GENERAL POWERS) BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

HUMBER CONSERVANCY BILL [Lords].

(Queen's Consent signified.)

Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

LEA BRIDGE DISTRICT GAS BILL [Lords].

A verbal Amendment made; Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

SUNDERLAND CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

ABERDEEN JOINT PASSENGER STATION BILL [Lords].

CALEDONIAN RAILWAY (GENERAL POWERS) BILL [Lords].

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

LEIGH-ON-SEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL [Lords].

YEADON AND GUISELEY GAS BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered ; to be read the third time.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION, AND GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN RAILWAY BILLS.

Ordered, That the Order [14th March] that Five be the quorum of the Select Committee be read, and discharged.

Ordered, That Three be the quorum of the Committee.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

PIER AND HARBOUR PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 2) BILL.

Lords Amendment considered, and agreed to.

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 1) BILL [Lords].

Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

WOLVERHAMPTON CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

Reported, with Amendments. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

METROPOLITAN GAS COMPANIES.

Report from the Select Committee, with Minutes of Evidence and an Appendix, brought up, and read. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 294.]

PETITIONS.

BOARD OF EDUCATION BILL.

Petition from London, for alteration ; to lie upon the Table.

BYNOE, CHARLES AUGUSTUS.

Petition from Charles Augustus Bynoe, for inquiry into his case by a Select Committee ; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES SERVANTS' SUPERANNUATION BILL.

Petition from Barking Town, in favour ; to lie upon the Table.

OUGHTON, MATILDA.

Petition of Matilda Oughton, for redress of grievances ; to lie upon the Table.

POOR LAW AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1845.

Petition from Aberdeen, for alteration of Law ; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

CHARITABLE DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS (IRELAND).

Copy presented, — of Fifty-fourth Annual Report of the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

DEATHS FROM WINDOW CLEANING ACCIDENTS.

Return presented,—relative thereto [Address 2nd June ; *Mr. Provand*] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 291].

POLLING DISTRICTS (WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE).

Copy presented,—of Orders made by the County Council of the West Riding of Yorkshire, altering certain Polling Districts and Polling Places within the Parliamentary Divisions of Normanton, Otley, and Rotherham [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

Copy presented,—of Reports from University Colleges participating in the Grant of £25,000, made by Parliament for "University Colleges in Great Britain" (1899) [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copy presented of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, No. 2320 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).

Copy presented of Report No. 262 (Barbados, Annual Report for 1898) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

COLONIAL REPORTS (MISCELLANEOUS).

Copy presented of Report No. 12 (Anguilla, Report on Vital Statistics) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

JAMAICA.

Copy presented of Report on the Finances of Jamaica, by Sir David Barbour, K.C.S.I. (in continuation of [C. 9177] February, 1899) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

JAMAICA.

Copy presented of Further Correspondence relating to the Finances and Government of the Island of Jamaica (in continuation of [C. 9177] February, 1899) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

NAVAL SAVINGS BANKS.

Accounts presented,—of Deposits in Naval Savings Banks, and the Payments thereof, and the Interest thereon, etc., during the financial year 1897-8 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

CIVIL SERVANTS (RETIREMENT AT THE AGE OF 65).

Copy ordered "of Treasury Minute, dated the 19th day of July, 1899, stating the circumstances under which certain Civil Servants have been retained in the Service after they have attained the age of 65."—(*Mr. Hanbury.*)

Copy presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 292.]

IRISH CHURCH TEMPORALITIES FUND.

Copy ordered, "of Treasury Memorandum, dated the 14th day of July, 1899, on the Financial Position and Prospects of the Irish Church Temporalities Fund."—(*Mr. Hanbury.*)

Copy presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 293.]

QUESTIONS.

NAVAL BARRACKS.

SIR J. COLOMB (Yarmouth): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty what is the approximate total number of officers and blue-jackets of the Royal Navy the naval barracks built, building, or proposed under Naval Works Bill to be built will accommodate; and what is the approximate total number of officers and men of the Royal Marine forces the Marine barracks built, building, or proposed under the Naval Works Bill to be built will accommodate.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. GOSCHEN, St. George's, Hanover Square): The approximate total number of officers and men of the Royal Navy to be accommodated in the Naval Barracks, built, building, or proposed to be built, is 14,517. The corresponding number in the case of the Royal Marines is 7,433.

KEYHAM DOCKYARD WORKS.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty, whether he can say when the contract time for the completion of the works on Keyham Dockyard extension expires; and what amount of work in proportion to the whole work has up to this time been done.

THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): The contract time expires 30th June, 1903. Up to the present time rather more than one-fourth of the permanent works under the contract have been completed, in addition to the temporary works, including the coffer dams, stagings, railways, and workshops, etc.

MILITARY LABOUR IN IRISH BARRACKS.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that civilian labour is being generally displaced in Irish military barracks, and particularly in Cork, in the building trades, and replaced by military labour; whether the average wage of the district is paid to the military men employed on permanent work in the Cork barracks, as is required by the fair wages resolution of the House

of Commons ; and whether it is intended to continue the employment of military labour in place of the regular qualified tradesmen of Cork and other places.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover) : Incidental repairs of barracks are, under the Queen's Regulations, entrusted as far as practicable to the artificers in regiments. The payments to them amount to from 2 to 3 per cent. of the whole sum expended on these services. They receive the rates of pay laid down in the Royal Warrant. But, since they also have board, lodging, clothes, and other privileges, it is not easy to compare their emoluments with the earnings of civil life. It is intended to continue the present practice.

EXPANDING BULLETS—MARK IV. AMMUNITION.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the condemnation by the Committee of the Peace Conference of bullets constructed to expand on impact, and the failure of Mark No. IV. ammunition at Bisley, the War Office will issue instructions that Mark No. IV. shall not be used in South Africa, and will take immediate steps to supply the troops in South Africa with other ammunition.

***MR. WYNDHAM** : The hon. Member appears to be mixing up two distinct questions in respect of Mark IV. ammunition. As I have already stated to the House, no action will be taken in consequence of any discussion that may have taken place at the Peace Conference, until we have received the final report of our representative. But in consequence of the recent enquiry into Mark IV. ammunition, it is intended to use that ammunition at foreign stations for practice purposes only.

SIERRA LEONE.

MR. DAVITT (Mayo, S.) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether, as Sir David Chalmers' Report upon the disturbances in the hinterland of Sierra Leone has been for some time in the Colonial Office, he will consent to lay it upon the Table of the House before the Vote for that office comes on for discussion.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, VOL. LXXV. [FOURTH SERIES.]

Birmingham, W.) : As I stated the other day, the Papers were laid in the week before last, and the printers will be urged to use all possible expedition in order that the Papers may be in the hands of Members before the Colonial Office Vote comes on.

NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERIES DISPUTE.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether, inasmuch as the Governor stated at the closing of the Newfoundland Legislature on the 19th July that no legislation had been asked for or enacted regarding the *modus vivendi* which expires this year, he has considered the situation which will arise in the absence of any Act of the Newfoundland Legislature enforcing the *modus vivendi*, and whether Her Majesty's Government propose in the absence of any such Act to take themselves, and without the assent of the colony, any coercive measures to enforce it upon the colonists ; whether Her Majesty's Government have communicated or propose to communicate to the Government of Newfoundland the Report of the Royal Commission ; and, if not, on what grounds ; and whether he proposes before Parliament separates to make any statement with reference to the questions pending between France and this country in regard to Newfoundland.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN : The whole question of the fishery on the so-called Treaty Shore of Newfoundland is under the consideration of the Government in connection with the Report of the Royal Commission. I may observe that there will be time to obtain the necessary colonial legislation before the commencement of the next fishing season. The Report has not yet been communicated to the Government of Newfoundland. I do not expect to be in a position to make any statement before the close of the session.

SPIRIT TRADE IN NIGERIA.

MR. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether, in view of the fact that the prohibition of the importation of spirits by the Niger Company into Northern Nigeria has been effective for the purpose, and has tended to the better government of the territory, he will continue the existing system of direct

prohibition of importation; and whether he will maintain and, if possible, extend the Company's regulations by which no one is permitted to sell spirits unless he has obtained a licence costing at least £100.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have already stated in answer to a question of the hon. Member for Western Denbighshire that the exclusion of spirits from Northern Nigeria will be maintained. The best means of controlling the sale of spirits in those parts of the territories now under the administration of the Royal Niger Company into which their importation is allowed will be carefully considered.

MR. BUCHANAN: Is it not the case that, while the importation of spirits is now prohibited by legislation in Northern Nigeria, in future its regulation will depend on the Administration?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I am not aware whether it is prohibited by legislation, but the hon. Member may rest assured that the prohibition will be effective.

BRITISH INDIAN TRADERS IN GERMAN AFRICAN POSSESSIONS.

SIR MANCHERJEE BHOWNAGREE (Bethnal Green, N.E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to the statement that the Governor of German South-West Africa has issued a very stringent edict prohibiting the extension of credit to natives; whether this edict and the introduction of the German *Gewerbsteuer*, or tax upon commerce, are specially directed against British Indian traders in the German African possessions; whether he is aware that, in consequence of the imposition of the *Gewerbsteuer*, two Hindu firms have been recently driven to withdraw their operations from German South-West Africa; and whether he intends to move Her Majesty's Government to take immediate steps to represent to the German Government the injury inflicted upon a large number of British subjects engaged in trade in German possessions.

***THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS** (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): No information has reached Her Majesty's

Government on the subject. Inquiries will be made in Berlin as to whether anything is known of this edict.

IMPRISONMENT OF A BRITISH SAILOR AT BILBAO.

MR. WILLIAM JOHNSTON (Belfast, S.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what progress has been made in the case of Daniel Scott, a British sailor, imprisoned for seven months without trial at Bilbao, Spain, concerning whom inquiry was made on 6th July; and if Her Majesty's Government have been able to obtain his release.

***MR. BRODRICK:** The formalities in connection with the trial of Daniel Scott have not yet been completed, but he was released on bail on the 15th instant.

THE IMPRISONED ARMENIAN PRELATES.

MR. STEVENSON (Suffolk, Eye): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Her Majesty's Government will consider the desirability of proposing to the Signatory Powers joint action by the representatives of those Powers at the Sublime Porte, in accordance with Articles 61 and 62 of the Berlin Treaty, with the object of securing the release from incarceration in St. James's Monastery, Jerusalem, of the Armenian Archbishop and the bishops exiled from their sees in Asia Minor, all of whom are ecclesiastics of irreproachable character, and have committed no crimes under Turkish or other law.

***MR. BRODRICK:** I explained the circumstances attending the detention at Jerusalem of these prelates in my answer to the hon. Member's question on the 15th ultimo. I can only add that Her Majesty's Government do not consider that the facts of the case call for the issue of any special instructions to Her Majesty's Ambassador.

OUTRAGES ON BRITISH SUBJECTS IN TURKISH ARABIA.

MR STEVENSON: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Her Majesty's Government are aware that the Porte has liquidated the claims of subjects of Austria-Hungary and the United States for damage done to their property in Turkey; and whether, in these circumstances, the Secretary of State will con-

sider the advisability of discontinuing verbal and written applications to the Porte, and will adopt other methods for securing payment, without further delay, of the claims of British merchants whose houses and shops were looted in 1896, and also of the pilgrims (British subjects) who were wounded and robbed by brigands in Turkish Arabia in the years 1892, 1893, 1895, 1896, and 1897.

***MR. BRODRICK :** The answer to the first paragraph is in the negative. In reply to the second paragraph, I can assure the hon. Member that the claims mentioned have continued to occupy the serious attention of Her Majesty's Government, and are at the present moment the subject of negotiations with the Turkish Government.

FOREIGN UNIVERSITY EDUCATION.

MR. ARTHUR MOORE (London-derry) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if the Reports on the subject of University Education in foreign countries have been received ; and, if so, when they will be distributed to Members.

***MR. BRODRICK :** Some of the materials have been received, but the papers are not yet complete for presentation to Parliament.

LIGHT FOR LIGHTHOUSES.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN : On behalf of the hon. Member for the St. Patrick Division of Dublin, I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether in the new lighthouse by the Fastnet, near Cape Clear, it is intended to provide oil gas ; whether it is intended to use coal gas in the new lighthouse at Blackhead ; whether it is admitted that the light of either oil or coal gas is superior to that of electric light in a fog ; and whether, seeing that the largest lighthouse in the world is the gas lighthouse on Tory Island on the north-west coast of Ireland, it is intended that that type of light should in future be used in all lighthouses under the control of the Irish Lights Board.

***THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE** (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon) : It is intended to provide a powerful biform oil light at Fastnet and a mineral oil light at Blackhead. I am not prepared to express an opinion on the relative merits of oil or coal gas and electric light. I

understand that the Commissioners of Irish Lights do not contemplate extending (at any rate, at present) the Tory Island type of light to all lighthouses under their control.

CHAINE MONUMENT, LARNE HARBOUR.

MR. M'CARTAN (Down, S.) : I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether the attention of the Irish Lights Commissioners has been called to the unhealthy and dangerous position of the lighthouse-keeper at the Chaîne Monument, Larne Harbour ; whether he is aware that the person in charge thereof for the time being cannot get any rest or sleep there ; if he will state the height at which the keeper has to work this light and the length and breadth of space he has for his accommodation ; and whether inspection and inquiry will be made in the interest of the health of the man in charge.

***MR. RITCHIE :** I am informed by the Commissioners of Irish Lights, (a) that they are satisfied that the accommodation for the lightkeeper at the Chaîne Memorial Tower, Larne Harbour, is not in any way unhealthy or dangerous ; (b) that the keeper is not permitted to sleep whilst on watch, but can sit down if he wishes to do so ; (c) that the height of the tower is about ninety feet, while the light-room is twelve feet high, and has a diameter of six feet four inches. It does not appear to me that any further inquiry is necessary.

STOCKBROKERS AND THE STAMP DUTY.

MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire) : I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been called to the effect of Clause 13 of the Finance Act, 1899, in the operations of provincial stockbrokers who do not belong to any stock exchange, compelling them when buying stock for a client through a stockbroker to pay for the stamp a second time ; and whether he can do anything to relieve them from this hardship.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EX-CHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS-BEACH, Bristol, W.) : If the hon. Member will refer to the reply which I gave to a question asked by the hon. Member for Barrow-in-Furness on the 14th instant, he will see that I have been considering whether it will be possible to devise a

plan by which payment of the double duty may be avoided. I hope to be able in a few days to arrive at a decision in the matter.

CHILDREN WORKING UNDERGROUND.

MR. ERNEST GRAY (West Ham, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he would grant a Return showing the number of children working underground during the year ending 31st December last (or ending on any more convenient date) who were during that year between twelve and fourteen years of age; such Return to show also the educational standard passed by these children and the number of hours per week worked by them.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir M. WHITE RIDLEY, Lanes., Blackpool): The statutory Returns made by owners of mines do not show separately the number of children between the ages of twelve and fourteen employed below ground, or give the other particulars mentioned in the question, so that the information for which the hon. Member asks could only be obtained by applying separately to every owner. As experience shows that complete returns can never be obtained except in cases where they are required by law, I am afraid that I do not see my way to granting the Return. I may, however, point out that the hours of labour for the children in question are definitely limited by the Acts, and it may be said generally that no boy is employed underground until he has passed the local standard of total exemption from school attendance.

OBSCENE EXHIBITIONS AT SEASIDE RESORTS.

MR. SAMUEL SMITH (Flintshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to the display of obscene pictures by means of the penny-in-the-slot machines on the shores of Southport, Blackpool, and several of the other popular seaside resorts; whether he is aware that these machines have been suppressed at Rhyl; and whether he could see his way to urge upon the various local authorities the necessity for suppressing these indecent exhibitions.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: My attention had not been called to this matter, but I am aware that some of the pictures exhibited in mutoscopes on Rhyl sands were withdrawn, objection having been taken to them on the score of indecency. At Blackpool the police were instructed to visit and inspect the machines in question, but found nothing which would justify criminal proceedings. I have no reason to suppose that at other places the local authorities are backward in enforcing the law against obscene exhibitions.

THE LONDON SCHOOL BOARD AND THE RE-HOUSING QUESTION.

SIR MANCHERJEE BHOWNAGREE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has now communicated further with the London School Board and with the Education Department on the subject of making provision for displaced occupiers of houses acquired by the School Board in Bethnal Green; and whether he can inform the House of the result of such communications.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): May I at the same time ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in accordance with his promise given on the 30th June, he has inquired into the allegation that the London School Board, by acquiring what is known as the Wood Street site in Bethnal Green in two portions, each consisting of less than twenty houses, evaded the obligation to re-house the persons displaced; can he now state the result of his inquiries; is he aware that, by the Educational Department Provisional Order Confirmation (London) Bill now before Parliament, the London School Board is seeking powers to acquire nineteen more houses in Bethnal Green; and what steps does he propose to take to prevent what appears to be an evasion of the law.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: I am in communication with the Education Department and the London School Board on the subject referred to in the first paragraph of the question, but I have at present no information to impart. As regards the point raised in the third paragraph, I appreciate its importance, and I am considering, in consultation with the authorities concerned, whether there should not be inserted in this Bill pro-

visions with special reference to the re-housing of persons displaced, or liable to be displaced, in Bethnal Green under the various powers taken by the School Board in recent years.

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY RE-HOUSING SCHEME.

MR. PICKERSGILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has approved a scheme submitted by the South-Eastern Railway Company for re-housing persons displaced under the powers of the company's Act of 1897, which scheme involves the demolition of some thirty-four or more houses inhabited by the labouring class near Abbey Street, Bermondsey; and, if so, will he say what steps he has taken, in view of the overcrowded condition of this district, to compel the South-Eastern Railway Company to provide accommodation elsewhere during rebuilding upon the site for the persons (some 300 in number) who will be thus turned out of their homes.

***SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY:** I have approved a re-housing scheme under the South-Eastern Railway Company's Act of 1897, and in order to carry it out some houses occupied by the labouring class near Abbey Street have to be demolished. These houses were not acquired under the Act, and there is no statutory duty upon the company to re-house their inhabitants. But I may say that the displacement of these persons has been one of the circumstances which I have carefully considered in settling the scheme. I believe that the scheme is calculated to do the best that circumstances will permit for the labouring class in this particular neighbourhood. It is a complicated question which I cannot go into now, but if the hon. Member cares to call at the Home Office some officer of that Department will be happy to explain the whole matter to him.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION IN SOUTHWARK.

MR. PICKERSGILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to a Report of St. Olave's District Board of Works, from which it appears that there were hundreds of applicants, including forty policemen, for a four-roomed house in the district which

recently became vacant; and whether he will very carefully consider the utter insufficiency of the existing house accommodation in Southwark when he is called upon to exercise his discretion in sanctioning schemes for the re-housing of persons displaced under statutory powers in that part of London.

***SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY:** The fact referred to by the hon. Member is but one instance of the sort of conditions which I have always to consider when any question of re-housing is before me. I need hardly say that, if a re-housing scheme in Southwark is submitted to me, I shall, as always in the past, take into consideration the state of house accommodation in the district affected.

VIVISECTION.

MR. PAULTON (Durham, Bishop Auckland): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will state what rules are laid down with regard to the granting or signing of certificates dispensing with the use of anaesthetics in vivisection experiments; whether there is any limit to the number of such certificates which one person may sign, or to the number of experiments upon different animals which may be performed by the person holding one such certificate; whether the Home Office authorises or allows certificates to be signed by the operator himself on his own behalf; whether Dr. Poore, whilst holding the office of inspector, has signed certificates in his capacity of professor of medical jurisprudence in University College, London; and whether there is any regulation requiring that the dates shall be specified for the performance of experiments under the various certificates dispensing with the use of anaesthetics, in order that the Home Office inspector may have knowledge of the time and place at which any experiment on living animals is to be performed.

***SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY:** All the conditions which are attached to the signing of the certificates mentioned in the first paragraph of the question are laid down by law, viz., Sections 11 and 12 of the Act of 1876. There is no limit to the number of certificates which an authorised person may sign; and the law places no limit on the number of experiments which may be performed under one

certificate; but it is the practice of the Home Office, in addition to the fact that all certificates expire on the 31st December of the year in which they are granted, to limit the number, and this is always done in the case of serious experiments in which the use of anæsthetics is wholly or partly dispensed with. The possibility indicated in the third paragraph would be directly contrary to the proviso in Section 11 of the Act. The answers to the last two paragraphs are in the negative.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping): Does Professor Poore sign the certificates?

***SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY**: I am informed that it is not the case that he does so.

MR. PAULTON: Then how is it that the statement appears in the Report of the Inspector? Will the right hon. Gentleman further inquire as to its accuracy?

***SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY**: Yes. I was only aware five minutes ago that the Report seemed to indicate this, and, of course, I have not had time to inquire.

PRISON LABOUR.

MR. DAVITT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he can state in how many prisons, local and convict, the treadmill and crank are now used in the discipline of such respective prisons; and whether it is the intention of Prison Commissioners to supersede these methods of punishment in all prisons in England, in view of the fact that no such instruments are employed in Ireland, Scotland, or any other civilised country; and, if so, can he state when their use will finally be dispensed with in English prisons.

***SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY**: Treadwheels are used in thirty-three, and cranks in eleven, local prisons, but solely for productive purposes. Cranks have never been used as a form of labour in the four convict prisons. Occasionally in the past they have been made use of as a means of punishment for prison offences, but are now very rarely resorted to. I cannot at present make any promise as to the discontinuance of these forms of hard labour in the prisons where they exist.

MRS. MAYBRICK.

MR. DAVITT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many years has the convict Mrs. Maybrick now served in penal servitude; and whether, seeing that her conduct in prison has been uniformly good since conviction, and that no extra punishments have been incurred by her through insubordination, he will take this case into his consideration with the object of recommending the gracious exercise of the Royal clemency in her behalf.

***SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY**: Mrs. Maybrick will have served ten years on the 6th of next month. I am not able to hold out any hope of exceptional treatment in this case.

MR. DAVITT: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that there is widespread and almost universal sympathy in America for Mrs. Maybrick?

***SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY**: I have heard of no reasons for exceptional treatment or clemency being shown in this case.

VACCINATION EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE.

MR. ALFRED THOMAS (Glamorgan-shire, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the case brought before the Pontypridd Police Court, in which the magistrates refused to grant the application of the Reverend William Griffiths, Ph.D., for a certificate of exemption under the Conscience Clause of the Vaccination Act, although Dr. Griffiths had tendered such evidence as entitled him to the exemption provided by the Conscience Clause of the Vaccination Act; and whether he will call upon the magistrates of the Pontypridd Police Court to furnish Dr. Griffiths with a certificate of exemption under the Conscience Clause of the Vaccination Act.

***SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY**: I am informed that it is the practice of the court in question to require some reason to be given on oath in support of a statement of conscientious objection; and that the magistrates, after hearing Dr. Griffiths, were not satisfied that he had a conscientious belief within the meaning of the Act. The question whether or not the magistrates exceeded their jurisdiction in

requiring the applicant to give reasons is one of law which, I am advised, might be raised and determined in a superior court. I have no power to direct the magistrates to issue a certificate of exemption.

MARGARINE FACTORIES.

MR. ARTHUR MOORE: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for the Home Department if the Return relating to margarine factories, ordered two months ago, is yet complete; and, if not, who is responsible for the delay in this matter.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. JESSE COLLINGS, Birmingham, Bordesley): The English and Scotch portions of this Return have been received and I am only waiting for that which relates to Ireland. I have asked the Irish Government to furnish it as quickly as possible.

WILBY TOWN ESTATE SCHEMES.

MR. STEVENSON: I beg to ask the hon. Member for the Thirsk Division of Yorkshire, as representing the Charity Commissioners, whether the Commissioners have definitely decided not to proceed further with the Wilby Town Estate Scheme dated 13th July, 1898, on the ground that it is opposed by the Wilby Parish Council. Whether he is aware that the intention of the Wilby Parish Council was not to oppose the proposed scheme but merely to criticise certain of its provisions; and whether, under those conditions and in view of the fact that the Wilby Parish Council, whilst maintaining its protest against the original scheme of 1869, is prepared to accept the new scheme as a compromise subject to certain alterations of detail, the Commissioners will reconsider the matter and allow the scheme to pass through its remaining stages.

*THE PARLIAMENTARY CHARITY COMMISSIONER (Mr. GRANT LAWSON, Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk): (1) The Commissioners have stated that they will not proceed with the scheme. (2) The Parish Council have opposed the scheme as proposed. (3) The Commissioners cannot consider the alterations desired by the Parish Council to be matters of detail, but if they will now accept the scheme as a

compromise without alteration the Commissioners will proceed with it.

TELEPHONE AT MULLINGAR.

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether he is aware that a local telephone exchange has just been established in Mullingar; and whether, in view of this fact, the postal authorities will meet the wishes of the people by erecting a trunk line to Dublin as soon as possible.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): The Postmaster-General has not received any application for the extension of the trunk telephone system to Mullingar. In view of the distance between Dublin and Mullingar, the cost of the circuit would of course be very heavy, while the receipts would not be likely to justify the expenditure. It might, however, be possible to provide a circuit under a guarantee from the National Telephone Company, who have established the local exchange.

MOYVORE LETTER CARRIER.

MR. HAYDEN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, will he explain why the departure of the letter carrier from Moyvore Post Office, in the County Westmeath, has been altered to 10 a.m. on Sundays, one hour after his arrival, although the inhabitants of the district petitioned against this alteration, by which they were unable to reply to their letters, unless by sending to one of the neighbouring post offices or letter-boxes, thus involving further Sunday labour; whether he is aware that the petition was signed by the clergy of both denominations as it was impossible for the letter carrier to attend divine service anywhere, and that the neighbouring post offices and letter-boxes are not cleared till 2 p.m., or after; and whether, in the new arrangements the same privilege as to time of Sunday closing may be extended to Moyvore district as is enjoyed by those surrounding it.

MR. HANBURY: No recent alteration has been made in the time of departure of the letter carrier from Moyvore Post Office on Sundays, and there is no trace of the receipt of any recent petition.

on the subject. The present hour of departure (10 a.m.) has been in force for some years, and is in accordance with the general rule under which rural postmen are permitted to return from the end of their walks on Sundays in the forenoon, in order to release them and all concerned from duty at an early hour of the day. There is an afternoon collection on the walk of another postman at two or three letter-boxes in the neighbourhood of Moyvore, which is an exception to the rule above referred to, but this does not appear to the Postmaster-General to afford sufficient ground for disturbing the Sunday arrangements at Moyvore.

DUBLIN TELEGRAPH STAFF.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether a revision of the Dublin telegraph staff took place last year in connection with the Tweedmouth Committee's Report, under which the clerks' class was increased by six with the authority of the Treasury given in May, and six sorting clerks were promoted to fill these positions on 15th September last, the appointments carrying the increased pay only from that date; whether, seeing that the usual practice in larger offices is that the increased pay is given to the promoted officers from the date of the Treasury sanction being given to make the appointments, he can say why the Dublin officers were not treated in the same way; and will he see that they are so paid.

MR. HANBURY: In the circumstances, instructions have been given for these promotions to take effect from the date of the Treasury letter sanctioning the revision.

TELEGRAPH OFFICE FOR BELLEWS-TOWN.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether the inhabitants of Bellewstown asked for the establishment of a telegraph office about a year ago, and offered the usual guarantee asked for by the Post Office; and whether he can explain the cause of the delay, and say when the office will be opened.

MR. HANBURY: The delay in establishing a telegraph office at Bellewstown

has arisen from the unwillingness of the sub-postmaster to undertake telegraph work. A new sub-postmaster has now been selected. It cannot be stated definitely when the office will be opened, but no time will be lost in completing the extension.

GRANTS TO IRISH RAILWAYS.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: On behalf of the hon. Member for the St. Patrick Division of Dublin, I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he can state when the Return granted on the motion relating to Treasury and local grants to Irish Railways will be in the hands of Members.

MR. HANBURY: As soon as the county borough of Dublin have replied to a question addressed to them, the requisite information will be in the hands of the Treasury, and the Return will then be issued without delay.

PRESS TELEGRAPHIC MESSAGES.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, at whose instance and for what reasons the Manchester Post Office recently gave sudden notice to the Lancashire evening papers limiting the despatch of telegrams relating to the test cricket match at Old Trafford to private messages; why the intimation was held back until almost the eleventh hour, thus subjecting the press to great inconvenience; and why the messages could not have been received at the nearest telegraph office instead of having to be sent three miles to the General Post Office in Manchester; and whether a similar intimation has been given with respect to the great golf match at Ganton, nine miles from Scarborough, where, contrary to previous usage, the Post Office refused to put up instruments on the ground.

MR. HANBURY: The notice referred to was given in pursuance of instructions from headquarters. The reason for limiting the despatch of telegrams from the Old Trafford Cricket Ground last week to private messages was that the telegraphic facilities at the cricket ground office were inadequate to admit of the press work being telegraphed from the ground, there being only one wire. The Department does not itself provide

extensions of the wires to cricket grounds, etc., but requires those on whose behalf such extensions are made to defray the cost and provide suitable office accommodation. Intimation that press-work could not be dealt with at the cricket ground was given to the principal news agencies as soon as the final decision of the cricket ground committee not to increase the number of wires was known, and at once to any reporters who gave notice of their intention to report the match. The press-work could not be dealt with at any telegraph office nearer to the cricket ground than the head office, as no office nearer to the ground had sufficient facilities for the purpose. In the case of Ganton, to which the hon. Member also refers, no offer has been made to the Department to provide office accommodation on the golf ground, or to defray the cost of extending the telegraph wires. There has been no such refusal as that referred to.

POSTMEN AND BANK HOLIDAYS.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether, in the event of a Bank Holiday occurring during an assistant postman's annual leave (such Bank Holiday being paid for as overtime), the officer is entitled to an extra day in lieu thereof.

MR. HANBURY: Yes, Sir.

MOUNTED RURAL POSTMEN'S ALLOWANCES.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, if he will grant a Return of the total number of rural postmen who have an allowance made to them for horse-keep in the form shown on the Paper this day.

MR. HANBURY: The Return could be given, though the labour involved in preparing it will be considerable; and the information if given in the proposed form would be almost useless. The mere number of allowances at the different rates tells nothing unless the details of the work to be done are added.

A MISSING IRISH TELEGRAM.

MR. DAVITT: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, is he aware that an important telegram in reference to the

trial of Sergeant Sullivan, of Mulranny, for alleged forgery, was despatched by Mr. William O'Brien from Westport Post Office to Mr. Valentine Kilbride, Dublin, the solicitor for the plaintiff, and was never delivered; what is the meaning of the explanation of the disappearance of the telegram offered by the Post Office in the letter of the Secretary of the General Post Office, Dublin, that the telegram in question failed in transmission upon the wires between Westport and Dublin; has there been any similar failure in transmission upon the wires in other cases; and, if such failure occurred, why was not notice sent at the time to the sender; and, have the Post Office authorities inquired whether Sergeant Sullivan, the defendant in the action, was in Westport at the time the message was handed in, and whether he or any other member of the police force had access to the telegraph office on that day, or had any opportunity of ascertaining the contents of the telegram.

MR. HANBURY: The telegram form shows that this message was apparently despatched from Westport to Dublin, but there is no trace of the receipt of the telegram in the Dublin office. It is a case in which it is difficult to decide where the blame for the failure rests, and the non-delivery is much to be regretted. There have been similar failures in transmission, but they are of rare occurrence. It is the practice, whenever a telegram fails to be delivered immediately, to advise the sender; but in this case it was not known before the attention of the Department was called to the matter by letter that failure had occurred. The Postmaster of Westport believes Sergeant Sullivan was not in Westport at the time the message was handed in. Neither he nor any of the police force could have access to the telegraph office, or in any way ascertain the contents of the telegram.

MR. DAVITT: Is it not the fact that another telegram, sent by Mr. O'Brien on the same day, was delivered?

MR. HANBURY: I believe so.

MR. DAVITT: Will the right hon. Gentleman further inquire into this very disagreeable matter?

MR. HANBURY: We have made all the inquiry the Post Office can possibly make. The only other inquiry that could be made, perhaps, is one that might be addressed to the constabulary authorities, as to the whereabouts of Sergeant Sullivan on that particular day.

SPECIAL TELEGRAPHIC DUTIES.

SIR FRANCIS EVANS (Southampton): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether it has been the practice to send telegraph clerks from the Southampton office to perform special duties at Epsom, Salisbury, Ascot, and Henley when public events require additional telegraphic facilities, and will he explain why they are now excluded from participation in these duties, the telegraph staff being recruited from offices much more distant; and whether the Postmaster-General could restore the privilege to the Southampton clerks, seeing that, as compared with former years, they will suffer pecuniary loss.

MR. HANBURY: It is the practice to send telegraphists from the Southampton office for duty in connection with special events. Four telegraphists were so sent to Salisbury for the race meeting held there on the 4th, 5th, and 6th instant, and two to Sandown Park on the 14th and 15th instant. The Southampton telegraphists are in no way excluded from participation in these duties when they can be spared from their own office. At certain times, however, it is found that they cannot be spared.

TELEPHONE WAY-LEAVES.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid.): On behalf of the Member for North-East Lanark I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether the way-leave powers delegated by the Postmaster-General to a licensee under the Telegraph Act of 1892 can be exercised without the consent of the local authorities in such case.

MR. HANBURY: The Postmaster-General, by the agreement with the National Telephone Company of 1896, is required, at the request of the company, to authorise the company, within the areas already assigned to them, to exercise certain way-leave powers which are conferred upon him by the Telegraph Acts. These powers were, by

Deed Poll dated March 23rd, 1899, delegated in a great number of places; and a copy of the Deed Poll has been sent to each such place. In some places, notably Bedford, the local authority appears to have been advised that the way-leaves could be exercised without the consent of the local authority. That, of course, is not the case; and, under the Act of 1892 and the Agreement of 1896, the special consent of the local authority is required in each case.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfar): May I ask whether the way-leave powers granted to the National Telephone Company by local authorities terminate with the licence of the company?

MR. HANBURY: Certainly.

EXTRA POLICE IN COUNTY CLARE.

MR. P. O'BRIEN: On behalf of the hon. Member for East Clare, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the number of extra police in Clare, and what is their cost; and whether, in view of the peaceable state of the country, they can be dispensed with.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (MR. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The number of extra police in the County Clare is forty men, and their cost to local rates amounts to about £1,350 per annum. These forty men are employed exclusively in affording special protection to certain individuals, a duty which cannot be performed by the normal or free force of police in the county; and so long as the necessity for such special measures continues to exist, the extra force cannot be dispensed with. I may add that there has been a reduction of 103 men in the extra force of Clare since the present Government entered office, and that this large reduction is equivalent to a saving to local rates of about £3,550 per annum.

BALTIMORE RAILWAY.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: On behalf of the hon. Member for the St. Patrick Division of Dublin, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Government have, at a large cost, constructed the railway to Baltimore, and whether the want of connection to deep water, as originally and subsequently intended, has interfered

with the utilities of the line for the benefit of the fisheries; and whether he can influence the Congested Districts Board and the Cork and Bandon Railway to financially co-operate in having this railway perfected.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The plans for this railway, which was built by the Government at a cost of £56,700, did not include the provision of a pier as suggested. As regards the second paragraph, I must refer the hon. Member to my reply to his previous question of the 10th inst. on the same subject.

CORK UNION DISPENSARY DOCTOR.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork E.): On behalf of the hon. Member for Cork (Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien), I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether it is under the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, that the Local Government Board authorise a charge on the rates of Cork Union of £346 a year in payment for substitutes for dispensary doctors when on leave other than sick leave, the doctors having hitherto always paid their own substitutes. I beg also, on my own behalf, to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to a resolution recently adopted by the Cork Board of Guardians, protesting against the action of the Local Government Board in seeking to compel the payment of substitutes for dispensary doctors when on ordinary leave out of the rates; and whether, in view of the fact that this rule, if insisted upon, will place a new burden upon the ratepayers, he will suggest to the Local Government Board the desirability of re-considering their decision.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: In reply to these questions, I have to say that the order for the payment of substitutes for dispensary doctors when on ordinary leave out of the rates was made, not under the Local Government Act of last year, but under the 8th and 12th Sections of the Medical Charities Act, 14 and 15 Vict., c. 68. So far as I have been able to ascertain, the practice of requiring the doctors to pay their own substitutes, which appears to exist in the Cork Union, is not the general practice in Ireland. If, however, it can be shown that it is the established practice in the Cork Union, and understood as such by the gentlemen

appointed dispensary doctors in that Union, the Local Government Board are quite ready to consider whether, consistently with the terms of the new Dispensary Order, to which they attach great importance, some arrangement cannot be made to meet the case, whether by re-arrangement of duties or otherwise.

CAPT. DONELAN: Do I understand the right hon. Gentleman to say the Local Government Board have issued no such orders as are mentioned in the question?

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: No; only general orders.

CASTLEREA SANITARY CHARGES.

MR. HAYDEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received a memorial from the Castlereas Rural District Council on the subject of the sanitary charges of the towns of Castlereas and Ballaghaderreen; whether he is aware that the spreading of these charges over the entire rural district, instead of as heretofore only on the places concerned and receiving benefit, has created a very strong feeling amongst the members of the council and the ratepayers generally; and whether he will comply with the desire of the council and the ratepayers in favour of making the sanitary expenses excluded charges, and leviable only upon the places receiving advantages from the works in connection with which they were incurred.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The memorial referred to in the first paragraph has been received. A Supplementary Order was issued on the 17th instant, restoring the former areas of charge for special expenses in certain cases, which include the Castlereas and Ballaghaderreen Water Supply and Sewerage schemes.

IRISH LAND ACT RETURNS.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: On behalf of the hon. Member for the St. Patrick Division of Dublin, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, will he explain how it is that now, three years after the passing of the Land Act of 1896, complete Returns of the land rental and encumbrances to which the fortieth section applies have not been presented to the House as required by that Act; whether he could see his way to at once present to the

House a portion of the Return, which has been in course of preparation during the past year, in order to expedite the work of solicitors and tenants entitled to purchase; and whether he would order an inquiry into the causes which have delayed Returns for three years which, according to the Act, ought to have been presented to the House at least two years ago.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The hon. Member is under a misapprehension. Neither the Land Law Act of 1896, nor the Rules made in pursuance of Section 40 of the Act, require that the Returns in question shall be presented to Parliament. As regards the second and third paragraphs, I have nothing to add to my reply to the hon. Member's previous question of Monday last on the subject.

THE CENSUS.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: On behalf of the hon. Member for the St. Patrick Division of Dublin, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether it is proposed, in the next Census Act for England, to take a census of the people and their occupations every five years; and whether a similar Act will extend to Ireland.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I have no knowledge as to the matter referred to in the question.

IRISH FISHERY CONSERVATORS' BOARD.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland what representation the Lord Lieutenant will give county district councils on the Fishery Conservators' Board if they become contributory to the amount of £25 and £50 respectively per year.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: Section 37 of the Local Government Act enables a district council, at the request of a Board of Conservators, to contribute to the expenses of the Board, and it is further provided by the same section that the number of representatives of the contributory district council upon the Board of Conservators shall be fixed by the Lord Lieutenant. Obviously, the question of representation of a particular district council upon the Board cannot be determined until the council has become con-

tributory under the section, and every case of the kind must be considered on its merits.

SALMON IN IRISH RIVERS.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that there has been a decrease of salmon in the rivers Barrow and Nore for the past fifteen years, which has been estimated to be £30,000 a year; whether he is aware that this is mainly due to the destruction of spawning fish in the fresh water, and of fry by trawlers and drum nets at the river mouth; and whether he will cause an inquiry to be held before the end of the close season, 15th April, at New Ross and Inistiogue to investigate the question and suggest a remedy.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The Inspectors of Irish Fisheries have no statistics as to the capture of salmon in the rivers mentioned. It appears to be a fact, however, comparing the quantities of salmon exported from Ireland to the principal English markets, that there has been a general falling off in the capture of salmon in recent years in Ireland. My information does not bear out the allegation in the second paragraph. I see no reason for directing an inquiry to be held in this particular case as suggested in the third paragraph; but I may remind the hon. Member that the subject of the inland fisheries and fishery laws in Ireland is about to be investigated by a Viceregal Commission.

CLONES SUB-LAND COMMISSION.

MR. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state at what date the Sub-Land Commission may be expected to sit for the hearing of cases in the Clones Union; and can he also say when the Chief Commission will sit to hear appeals for County Monaghan.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The dates for the sittings referred to in the question have not yet been fixed. Sittings will, however, be arranged on as early dates as possible having due regard to the claims of other districts.

FAIR RENT VALUATIONS.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: On behalf of the hon. Member for East Cavan, I beg

to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware of the great delay in fixing fair rents caused by the inability of farmers to supply the Sub-Commissioners with certificates of valuation for standard years, in cases where holdings have been divided or consolidated holdings, with landlord's consent, have been separated since fixing last judicial rent; whether he is aware that the Irish Land Laws do not require the production of any such certificates; and if inquiry will be made with the view of providing some way of preventing the block at present existing in fixing fair rents in such cases.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: Having regard to the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1898, and particularly of Section 55, a fair rent cannot be fixed unless the court is furnished with a certificate of the rateable valuation of the holding for the standard financial year, setting forth separately the valuation of the agricultural land and other hereditaments respectively comprised therein. In cases where holdings have been sub-divided or consolidated, even with the consent of the landlord, as indicated in the question, and when the provisions of the Valuation Acts have not been complied with, and the valuations of sub-divided or consolidated holdings have not been revised, the certificate referred to cannot be issued until steps have been taken under Statute 17 Vic., cap. 8, as altered by the Local Government (Adaptation of Irish Enactments) Order, 1899, to have the valuation revised at the next annual revision. When the Act of last year came into force the Land Commissioners issued a Memorandum to applicants to have fair rents fixed, in which they were informed that when circumstances such as those with which the question deals existed the Commissioners would be unable to fix a rent until steps had been taken by the applicant to have the tenement valuation revised.

POOR LAW ANALYSTS IN IRELAND.

MR. MACALEESE: On behalf of the hon. Member for North Armagh I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, with reference to the appointment of analytical chemists in Ireland to the poor law unions for the

analysing of drugs, if he could state what qualification does the Irish Local Government Board require that they should possess, how many appointments have they sanctioned so far, and what is the full qualification of each chemist that has been appointed.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: In view of the importance of the duties the Local Government Board require in the case of persons who are not already public analysts under the Food and Drugs Act, educational attainments equal to those possessed by such of the Fellows or Associates of the Institute of Chemistry of Great Britain and Ireland as have obtained the certificate granted by the Institute after examination in therapeutics, pharmacology and microscopy. The Board have sanctioned the appointment of one gentleman who possesses the foregoing qualifications but who has not hitherto acted as public analyst.

IRISH NATIONAL LIBRARY.

MR. WILLIAM JOHNSTON: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, when the Report of the Trustees of the National Library of Ireland (Kildare Street) for 1898 will be laid before Parliament; and whether the provisions for the library, which have long been asked for, will shortly be carried out.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The Report will be presented to Parliament by the Science and Art Department, and will not pass through my hands. Perhaps my hon. friend would address his question to my right hon. friend the Vice-President of the Council.

PEACE PRESERVATION ACT—PROSECUTIONS IN COUNTY DUBLIN.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to the case of a captain in Her Majesty's service, who was prosecuted and fined at the Coolock Petty Sessions, County Dublin, on the 10th instant, under the Peace Preservation Act, for having arms on his own land, on the ground that his holding was situated in a proclaimed district, namely, the County of Dublin; and will he explain

why the County Dublin, which is, and has for years, been absolutely free from all serious crime, is still proclaimed under the Peace Preservation Act, and whether the proclamation of the County of Dublin will be revoked.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The answer to the first paragraph is in the affirmative. With regard to the second paragraph, it is a fact that the County of Dublin is subject to a proclamation issued under the Peace Preservation Act of 1881, which makes the possession of firearms without a licence to keep the same, illegal. That proclamation was issued in December, 1881, immediately after the passing of the Act, and successive Irish Governments since that date have not seen their way to withdraw the proclamation. It is not the intention of the Government, as at present advised, to revoke it.

BELFAST TROUBLES.

MR. DILLON: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that on last Saturday a stone was flung through the window of the house of Rev. Wm. Peoples, of Templemore Avenue, Belfast, and that the persecution of this clergyman is still kept up in spite of the closing of his church; and why the police are not instructed to put a stop to such proceedings.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: On the night of the 15th instant, the Rev. Mr. Peoples reported to the police that a small pane of glass in the window of his house had been broken. Mr. Peoples has been living in his house for the past four months, and has not during that period been subjected to annoyance. The stone was probably thrown by boys in rough play without any intention of breaking Mr. Peoples' window. That gentleman has not, I am informed, suffered any annoyance since St. Clement's Church was closed four months ago. He moves freely through the district, and no particular notice is taken of him. The police have instructions to pay close attention to his house.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

MR. CALDWELL: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in

view of the opposition to the Congested Districts (Scotland) Bill, he intends to proceed with that measure this session.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (MR. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): This Bill is one of those which I stated a few days ago would not be proceeded with if there is any serious opposition. I will make it my business to find out whether that is the case.

MR. CALDWELL: There will be considerable opposition. Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the Bill confers no public money on Scotland, whereas a similar Bill for Ireland gives £21,000?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It is not a similar Bill.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to:—

SEATS FOR SHOP ASSISTANTS BILL,
formerly SEATS FOR SHOP ASSISTANTS (ENGLAND AND IRELAND) BILL.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 4) BILL.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 12) BILL.

LONDON, BRIGHTON, AND SOUTH
COAST RAILWAY (VARIOUS POWERS)
BILL.

WALKER AND WALLSEND UNION GAS
(ELECTRIC LIGHTING) BILL.

GREAT NORTHERN AND STRAND
RAILWAY BILL.

GREAT WESTERN AND GREAT CENTRAL
RAILWAY COMPANIES BILL.

SOUTH EASTERN AND LONDON,
CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAY
COMPANIES (NEW LINES) BILL.

STOCKPORT CORPORATION WATER
BILL.

With Amendments.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 4) BILL.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 12) BILL.

Lords Amendments to be considered
To-morrow.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS BILL.

As amended (by the Standing Committee), further considered.

Other Amendments made.

Schedule added as follows :—

ENACTMENTS REPEALED.

Session and Chapter.	Short Title.	Extent of Repeal.
38 and 39 Vic., c. 68	The Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875	In section two the definition of the term "food." In section fourteen the words "offer to," and the words "proceed accordingly and shall." Section fifteen.
42 and 43 Vic., c. 30	The Sale of Food and Drugs Act Amendment Act, 1879	Section ten.
50 and 51 Vic., c. 29 11	The Margarine Act, 1887	In section six the words "or with," and the words "not less than a quarter of an inch square."
54 and 55 Vic., c. 46	The Post Office Act, 1891	Section eleven.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. LONG, Liverpool, West Derby): I hope the House will allow this Bill to be now read a third time. It has, I think, been fully discussed both in Committee and on Report stage.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That the Bill be now read the third time."
(Mr. Long.)

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): The right hon. Gentleman will, I think, admit that those who have taken an interest in this measure have shown by their action this afternoon in not pressing the Amendments which they have on the Paper that they have no desire to unduly protract the discussion on it. But I must say there is a feeling that we should have some opportunity of saying a few words on the Third Reading, and, therefore, I hope the right hon. Gentleman will not press this motion of Third Reading.

MR. STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.): While we have no desire to prevent the

Bill being read a third time, I do think we are entitled to enter a protest against that part of it which provides that an invoice is no longer to serve as a warranty. I make that protest on behalf of a large number of small retailers throughout the length and breadth of the country, who feel that they have a right to complain of the action of the Government in assenting the other day to the Amendment moved by the hon. Member for East Sussex. That Amendment altered what had been done by the Grand Committee by the, no doubt, small majority of four, and against the desire of the Government. An invoice was then made to be an equivalent to a warranty. Unfortunately the Government thought fit not to resist this Amendment moved in the small hours of the morning, which undid that portion of the Grand Committee's work. The House was nearly empty, and hon. Members were tired, and, in consequence, the question was not fully or properly debated. I cannot help thinking that, had there been more Members present, many would have protested against the action of the Government in this matter. It is quite true the Government did not put on the Party whips to tell in favour of the Amendment of the hon. Member for East Sussex—

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfarshire): Are we to understand that the Third Reading is to be taken to-day?

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): I rise to a point of order. Am I not right in saying that, according to the Rules of the House, a motion of this nature must be adjourned if objection is taken to its being proceeded with? Personally, I feel that I must take that objection.

*MR. SPEAKER: There is no such Rule, but in each case it is a matter for the House to decide. If there is a strong feeling against proceeding with a Bill it is not usual to persist with the motion. At the same time there are many cases where the Third Reading has been taken in spite of there being some objection.

MR. STRACHEY: I must say, with regard to the invoice question, it is most unfortunate that the Government gave way upon it. I would be the last to suggest that there might be any lack of

impartiality on the part of a county bench of magistrates who might be called upon to deal with cases under this Act, but on such a bench are found gentlemen interested in agricultural matters and in seeing that agricultural produce was properly protected, and some people might fear that, in such a case, the magistrates might not prove absolutely impartial. I repeat that I repudiate any such idea personally, but still I cannot help thinking that it would be far better for the Government if it had, in order to avert suspicion, given defendants a right in these cases to appeal to a jury, a course which is very much more necessary now in view of the fact that an invoice is no longer to be treated as a warranty. Again, I think there is cause of complaint as to the action of the Government in insisting on imposing the penalty of three months' imprisonment for a third conviction. Here again the invoice question renders the decision come to more open to objection. It should be borne in mind that small shopkeepers in country districts naturally rely upon an invoice as a warranty. If they receive goods from firms supposed to be of good repute, they naturally feel safe in selling them; and it is unfair to these retailers that they should be rendered liable to imprisonment, not for their own carelessness, but for the misconduct of others, on whose word they ought to be able to rely.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid.): I am sorry that the Government are pressing this motion for a Third Reading. There certainly has been some misunderstanding on this side of the House. Many hon. Members interested certainly did not expect the Third Reading to be taken to-day. Under these circumstances I beg to move that the Debate be now adjourned.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR: I beg to second that.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Debate be now adjourned."—*(Mr. Caldwell.)*

*MR. LONG: I have no desire to press this matter unfairly, but it will, I think, be admitted that the Bill on Second Reading, before the Grand Committee, and again on the Report stage, has

Mr. Strachey.

received the most exhaustive and detailed consideration, and therefore nothing remains but to repeat over again the arguments already used against certain details of the measure. In these circumstances, and having regard to the fact that the opposition, as far as I am able to judge, comes from only a few hon. Gentlemen opposite, I hope the House will resist the Amendment.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, South): I regret to hear the words which have just fallen from the President of the Board of Agriculture. I think he ought to feel that in the long run it is much better he should give way. This is a step which can only be taken by the general consent of the House, and I would suggest to the right hon. Gentleman that it is very desirable the House should not lose its power in these matters. I therefore hope he will not persist in asking for the Third Reading of this Bill to-day. He must feel that the concessions which the Government made on Thursday night have been amply rewarded by the action of hon. Members in not to-day pressing the Amendments which they had on the Paper. The Bill is really an important one, exciting a large amount of interest throughout the country—an interest disproportionate to that which was borne testimony to by the attendance in the House on the Report stage. Some important alterations have been made in the measure, and one important provision introduced by the Grand Committee has been struck out. Under these circumstances, I think the House should have an opportunity of debating the Third Reading.

*MR. LONG: After that expression of view by the right hon. Gentleman from the front Opposition Bench, and speaking therefore, I presume, in the name of the Opposition, I ask leave to withdraw my motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed To-morrow.

AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION (IRELAND) BILL.

As Amended (by the Standing Committee), considered.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I think the right hon. Gentleman will admit that the

Amendments I have put down on the Paper do not show any desire on my part to prevent this Bill passing. It was carefully considered in Committee upstairs, and in some particulars, no doubt, substantially improved. But I regret to say that some of the chief faults in its machinery, to which I drew attention on the Second Reading, are still untouched. The first Amendment I have to propose is one which was fully considered in Committee, and therefore I shall only say a few sentences in regard to it. Its object is exceedingly simple. The Bill, as it at present stands, proposes to make the Chief Secretary for Ireland President of the new Department, and to associate with him a vice-president, to be appointed and removable by one of Her Majesty's Secretaries of State. I propose that the Department should have as President one who is not Chief Secretary. I do not wish the Chief Secretary to be directly associated with the new Department, and this will give it two characteristics which I judge to be very valuable—first, it will leave the Department more independence and initiative; and, in the second place, it will separate the Department from the ordinary political administration of Ireland, and thereby give it a better chance of getting into touch and sympathy with the body of the people. When I made this proposal in Committee, with, I venture to say, the universal support of Irishmen, the only argument advanced against it was that it was too far-reaching, as it amounted in effect to the cutting into two of the whole administration of Ireland, and destroying its centralised character. I accept that description of my proposal, and I certainly should like to see this new Department cut off from that portion of the administration which is responsible for police and justice, because it would thereby

be relieved from that odium and friction which a political Department of the Irish Government so often incurs. I beg to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 10, to leave out from the word 'with,' to the word 'appointed,' in line 11, and insert the words, 'a president'"—(*Mr. Dillon*)—instead thereof.

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): I fully recognise that the hon. Member has no desire to obstruct this Bill. I am afraid, however, that, as in Committee, so now I am obliged to resist this Amendment. I do so on the ground, mainly, that the change is not a desirable one in itself, having regard to the interests of the Department it is proposed to set up. It would weaken the Department both in the House and in Ireland if the Chief Secretary were not included as its President. It is perfectly true that, at one time, there seemed to be a consensus of opinion that it would be desirable to have a Minister who should be independent of the Chief Secretary as head of the Department, but I believe I satisfied a deputation representing the Chambers of Commerce and others that waited on me that such was not the case, and that the presence of the Chief Secretary on the Department was, in fact, necessary to the successful working of the measure, and that our proposal would in fact give effect to their desire.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 133; Noes, 78. (Division List, No. 292.)

AYES.

Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold, Alfred
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Baily, James (Waltham)
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bethell, Commander

Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Boulnois, Edmund
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. A. (Glasgow)
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birmingham)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worcester)
Chelsea, Viscount
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.

Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir J. Charles Ready
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard H.
Curzon, Viscount
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Denny, Colonel
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas-
Fellowes, Hn. Ailwyn Edward

Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc.)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzGerald, Sir R. Penrose
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Fletcher, Sir Henry
 Flower, Ernest
 Gedge, Sydney
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
 Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St George's)
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Halsey, Thomas Frederick
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Helder, Augustus
 Hill, Rt. Hon. A. S. (Staffs.)
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hozier, Hon. James Hy. Cecil
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Kenyon, James
 Kimber, Henry
 King Sir Henry Seymour
 Knowles, Lees

Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Corn)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lea, Sir T. (Londonderry)
 Lecky, Rt. Hon. Wm. Edw. H.
 Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
 Llewellyn, Sir Dillwyn- (Swans.)
 Lockwood, Lt.-Colonel A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverpool)
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lubbock, Rt. Hon. Sir John
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 Malcolm, Ian
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
 Milton, Viscount
 Monk, Charles James
 Moore, Arthur (Londonderry)
 More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
 Pease, H. Pike (Darlington)
 Percy, Earl
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp

Priestley, Sir W. Overend (Edin.)
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
 Rothschild, Hon. L. Walter
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. E. J.
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
 Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
 Stanley, Sir H. M. (Lambeth)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.)
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Whiteley, H. (Aston-under-L.)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, J. Powell- (Birm.)
 Wyndham, George
 Wyvill, Marmaduke d'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.).
 TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir
 William Walrond and Mr.
 Anstruther.

NOES.

Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. J. Blair (Clackm.)
 Billson, Alfred
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Burt, Thomas
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Robert (Durham)
 Carew, James Laurence
 Carmichael, Sir T. D. Gibson
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Crombie, John William
 Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan)
 Davitt, Michael
 Dewar, Arthur
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Doogan, P. C.
 Duckworth, James
 Esmonde, Sir Thomas
 Evans, Sir F. H. (South'ton)
 Ferguson, R. C. M. (Leith)
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred

Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. C. Seale-
 Hazell, Walter
 Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
 Holland, W. H. (York. W. R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Jones, David Brynmor (Swan)
 Kinloch, Sir J. George Smyth
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'l'nd)
 Leng, Sir John
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
 M'Crae, George
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Ghee, Richard
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Connor, J. (Wicklow, W.)

Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Redmond, J. E. (Waterford)
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spicer, Albert
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Strachey, Edward
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, A. (Carmarthen, E.)
 Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Williams, John Carvell (Notte)
 Wilson, Charles Henry (Hull)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Woodall, William
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hudd'rsfd)
 Yoxall, James Henry
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Dillon and Captain
 Donelan.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I have to apologise to the House for moving an Amendment which is not on the Paper. But the circumstances are such that I think I am justified in doing so, as I had understood it would have been among the Amendments put down for Irish Members, while those Gentlemen thought I intended to

put it down. It was defeated on the Grand Committee by a small majority, and I believe it had the support of all Nationalists, with only one exception. The object of the Amendment is to make it necessary that the new Minister to be appointed under the Bill shall seek re-election on appointment. This matter of re-election has not been very frequently.

argued in the House in recent years, but in 1869, when the late Leader of the House, the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouth, made his maiden speech, Lord Bury had asked leave to introduce a Bill to provide that Ministers should not have to seek re-election on accepting office. Mr. Gladstone, and many other leading Members of the House, made most interesting speeches, and the language used was most uncompromising, the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouth "vehemently dissenting" to the proposal. He declared that the choice of Ministers should be ratified by their constituencies. He and other Members who took part in that Debate pointed out how this matter especially affected Ireland, where cabals and Parliamentary intrigues were especially marked. The case of Judge Keogh and other cases were alluded to, and the opinion of Mr. Hallam was quoted as to the necessity of jealously maintaining the rights of the constituents. Not only did everyone who spoke on the Liberal side uphold the principle of maintaining the rights of constituents, but Mr. Henley strongly supported the same view from the other side of the House. He said he did not like "cutting the connection between the House of Commons and the constituencies." That opinion prevailed, and the motion for leave to introduce the Bill was unanimously negatived by the House. The result has been that the fixed system has continued, and while leading Ministers have to seek re-election, under-secretaries and some secretaries of boards do not. It has been necessary when a new Minister is created, to consider on abstract merits whether the new Minister shall be sent for re-election or not. However strong the arguments may be on general principles in favour of sending a Minister for re-election, they seem to me to be vastly stronger in the case of Ireland. In the past, Irish constituencies have been liable to treachery on the part of their political representatives, and consequently the political condition of Ireland renders it necessary to maintain this principle in their case. I beg to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 20, to leave out from the word 'elected,' to the word 'Parliament,' in line 23, inclusive, and insert the words 'and shall be deemed to be an office included in Schedule H of The Representation of the People Act, 1867, in Schedule H of The Repre-

sentation of the People (Scotland) Act, 1868, and in Schedule E of The Representation of the People (Ireland) Act, 1868,'—(*Sir Charles Dilke*)—instead thereof."

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The right hon. Baronet has argued this question on general principles, and referred to a Bill brought in by Lord Bury, which was not read a first time. That Bill, the House will remember, related, not to the case of subordinate ministers, but to the case of all Ministers holding office under the Crown. If the argument of the right hon. Baronet is one to which the House should attach weight at the present time, I think he will admit that we have been going wrong for a generation. For at least a generation there is not a single case of a subordinate Minister requiring to seek re-election on taking office. That seems to me to be a sufficient reply to the right hon. Baronet, so far as the general grounds adduced by him are concerned. But the right hon. Baronet is of opinion that Ireland is a special case, and that whatever may be the law in England, a new Minister should not be appointed in Ireland without an appeal to his constituents on his appointment. I cannot agree with the right hon. Baronet that there is a special case for Ireland of any real weight. On the contrary, I would argue that Ireland is a place where the rule should not apply, even if we had not for thirty years abandoned it in the case of all subordinate Ministers. Let the House remember this, that the Minister will not necessarily be a Minister representing an Irish constituency, and if you limit the choice open to the Government by laying down the rule that appointment to this post involves re-election, it may very well be that it would be impossible for the Government to select an hon. Member representing an Irish Constituency, because the Member might, under existing conditions, hold an unsafe seat. Everybody knows that the question of the safety of a seat is an element that must be taken into consideration in making appointments of such Ministers. If that be so, and if the right hon. Baronet's Amendment is accepted, the Government could not appoint an Irish Member, and would have to go outside Ireland or to the House of Lords

for the selection of the Minister. I have no doubt that so far from Ireland presenting a special case on account of which we ought to depart from the rule which has obtained for thirty years, we ought to make it an exception so that it would be unnecessary for the Minister to seek re-election on appointment of office.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Kerry, W.): I am sorry the right hon. Gentleman cannot see his way to accept this Amendment. It is one which has the all but unanimous support of the Irish Members. The right hon. Baronet quoted historical precedents in favour of it, but the right hon. Gentleman met them by saying that these historical precedents had been abolished for the last thirty years. The present Chief Secretary for Ireland has to seek re-election. We attach considerable importance to the post of Vice-President of the new board, and we think that he, also, should be bound to seek re-election on his appointment. If we had a Parliament of our own he would, of course, have to seek re-election in the Irish Parliament, for the President of the Board of Agriculture would be one of the most important Ministers that we would have. I think it would be extremely wise from our point of view that we should establish a precedent for that now, so that when we do have the appointment of a Minister of Agriculture of our own we may arrange that he should be required to seek re-election. We desire to place our views on record by supporting the Amendment of the right hon. Baronet, and I hope he will go to a Division.

MR. WILLIAM JOHNSTON (Belfast, S.): I hope the Government will not accept the Amendment. I think I can speak with perfect impartiality, for the appointment is not one which is ever likely to be asked for by me or offered to me. Why should hon. Gentlemen opposite seek to put this penalty of re-election on Irish Members of Parliament? I have yet to learn that the admiration of these hon. Members for the House of Lords is so strong that they would like to penalise the representatives of Irish constituencies in order that a noble Lord should be the occupant of this post. Of course, if that be so, then nothing more is to be said. I would take this opportunity to thank the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary for the care, patience, courtesy and

conciliation he has shown in bringing this Bill to its present position. I can assure him that all Ireland will be grateful to him in the days to come; and I trust that he will not have his opinion set at defiance by the House on an occasion when he is desirous of giving to Ireland a great boon.

MR. STEVENSON (Suffolk, Eye): I noticed that the Chief Secretary stated that for the past generation all subordinate Ministers were exempted from seeking re-election. There is, at all events, the occupant of one subordinate office—the Civil Lord of the Admiralty who, I think, has to seek re-election.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: That is not a post which has been created during the last century.

MR. STEVENSON: Reference was made to Lord Bury's Bill of 1869; but a Bill was afterwards brought in by the hon. Member for the Abercromby Division of Liverpool to abolish, in the case of all Ministers, the necessity of appealing to their constituents on their appointment to office. I believe if a Bill of that kind were brought in now, it would receive a large amount of support in this House and in the country. It seems to me, however, that as this particular post is one of very great importance, it would be a pity to set the example with it. Furthermore, as has been pointed out, it is of the greatest possible importance that the holder of this office should be in very close touch with Irish feeling and Irish conditions of life, and it seems to me that that is a reason why the Amendment ought to be supported.

MR. DILLON: I trust the right hon. Baronet will go to a Division and enable us to put our opinion on record. It is a fact that every single Minister drawing a salary in connection with the Irish Government in this House has to seek re-election, and therefore as regards Irish administration the proposal in the Bill is a totally new departure. I ask the Chief Secretary whether it would not be better for him to follow the unbroken tradition and practice of the Irish Government rather than to follow the new tradition and practice of the English Government, and which the

Mr. G. W. Balfour.

Irish Members do not desire to apply to their country. A great majority of the Irish representatives are solid on this question. I heartily agree with the right hon. Baronet in what he has said as regards the greater strength of the objection to this new departure, because of the special case of Ireland. We consider that the peculiar situation which has existed and is likely to exist for some time in Irish politics, renders it particularly undesirable that a Member of Parliament, after he has been elected, should have his status altered without his constituents having the right to state their views upon it. The right hon. gentleman the Chief Secretary strengthened our case when he said that to compel this Minister to seek re-election on appointment would limit the choice of the Government—or in

other words that he would appoint a man as Minister who, if he sought re-election, would be defeated by the constituency which returned him as an independent Member. That is the strongest argument for the Amendment, because it would give the constituencies a right to say whether they are to be represented by an independent and unsalaried Member, or by a salaried Minister of the Crown. For that reason I certainly shall vote for the Amendment, and I do think it would be more consistent with the position of the Irish Government to accept it.

Question put—

The House divided:—Ayes, 161; Noes, 91. (Division List, No. 293.)

AYES.

Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold, Alfred
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Waltham)
Baird, J. George Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barry, Rt. Hon. A. H. S. (Hunts.)
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Beckett, Ernest William
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander
Blownagree, Sir M. M.
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Boulnois, Edmund
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, A. Montagu
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birmingham)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worcester)
Chelsea, Viscount
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
Colston, C. E. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cornwallis, F. Stanley W.
Courtney, Rt. Hon. L. H.
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Curzon, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles

Denny, Colonel
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
Elliott, Hon. A. Ralph D.
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manchester)
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Rbt. Penrose-
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. George's)
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
Helder, Augustus
Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, Joseph
Howell, William Tudor
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kemp, George
Kenyon, James
Kimber, Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lea, Sir Thos. (Londonderry)

Lecky, Rt. Hon. Wm. Edw. H.
Leighton, Stanley
Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
Llewellyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swansea)
Lockwood, Lieut.-Colonel A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverpool)
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lubbock, Rt. Hon. Sir John
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdonna, John Cumming
Malcolm, Ian
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milton, Viscount
Milward, Colonel Victor
Monk, Charles James
Moore, Arthur (Londonderry)
More, Rbt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Priestley, Sir W. O. (Edin.)
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel W.
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, Gen. F. S. (Cheltenham)
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Saunders, Rt. Hon. Col. E. J.
Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
Sharpe, William Edward T.

Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
Stanley, Sir H. M. (Lambeth)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Sturt, Hon. Humphrey Napier
Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Ox. Univ.)
Thornton, Percy M.

Tollemache, Henry James
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Valentia, Viscount
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-u.-Lyne)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Jos. Powell (Birm.)

Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, George
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Bainbridge, Emerson
Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. B. (Clackm.)
Billson, Alfred
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carew, James Laurence
Carmichael, Sir T. D. Gibson
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Crilly, Daniel
Crombie, John William
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Davitt, Michael
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Duckworth, James
Dunn, Sir William
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir W. (Derby Co.)
Gourley, Sir E. Temperley
Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)

Griffith, Ellis J.
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Hazel, Walter
Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
Hedderwick, Thomas Chas. H.
Holland, W. H. (York, W. R.)
Horniman, Frederick John
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Kinloch, Sir John G. Smyth
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
Leng, Sir John
Lloyd-George, David
Macaleese, Daniel
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
M'Ewan, William
M'Ghee, Richard
Maddison, Fred
Maden, John Henry
Mellor, Rt. Hon. J. W. (Yorks.)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Dur'ham)

Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Power, Patrick Joseph
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Robson, William Snowden
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Souttar, Robinson
Spicer, Albert
Steadman, William Charles
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, A. (Carmarthen, E.)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
Wills, Sir William Henry
Wilson, Charles Henry (Hull)
Wilson, John (Govan)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hud'sfield)
Woods, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir Charles Dilke and Mr.
Dillon.

MR. DILLON: This Amendment deals with the composition of the Agricultural Board which, under this Act, is constituted as follows: Two Members elected by each of the provincial committees, which makes, in all, eight elected members, and four nominated by the Crown, making in all 12. That gives the Crown one-third of the entire number, but that does not represent the actual position of the board, because the provincial committees have a large element of nominated members. My Amendment would have the effect of doubling the number of elected representatives, bringing the total number of the board up to sixteen. Consequently the Department would still have the nomination of one-fourth of the entire board. When I moved this Amendment in Grand Committee the Chief Secretary said it would make the board too large, and that the proportion of nominated members to the total number was settled by the Government

on lines similar to those adopted in foreign countries. I ask the Chief Secretary to explain to the House what is the reason for the extraordinary disparity that exists from the point of view of the influence of the popularly elected member between the composition of the Board of Agriculture and the Board of Technical Instruction under this Bill. The Board of Technical Instruction consists of twenty-four members, six from Dublin and Belfast (three each); one to be appointed by the joint committee from the rural districts of the County of Dublin; four by the borough councils of Ireland; three by the Chambers of Commerce; four by the provincial committees of each province; one by the Commissioners of National Education; one by the Intermediate Education Board, and four by the Department, which is one-sixth of the whole number. On the Agricultural Board you have one-third of the whole

number nominated by the Department. That is a very extraordinary anomaly and one which I think needs explanation. The functions of the two boards are precisely similar, and I cannot see why it is necessary or on what ground the Board of Agriculture should be constituted on a more official basis than the Board of Technical Instruction. I have another strong argument. Under the Bill as it stands only two representatives are allowed in each province, which number I hold is totally inadequate to represent them properly, and it is sure to lead to a great deal of difficulty. I would draw the special attention of the House to this point. Why is it necessary to give to compact units like the City of Dublin and Belfast three representatives each, and only give two to a whole province? Surely everybody will admit that even if the population of Munster, Connaught, or Ulster were as small as the population of Belfast or Dublin, being scattered over a wide area they require a larger representation than those city communities. As a matter of fact the populations of the provinces are much larger than these cities, and yet you only give them two representatives while the cities have three. I can see no solid ground upon which this differentiation can be based. When the Chief Secretary falls back upon his contention that by increasing the numbers the Board of Agriculture would be made too large and unwieldy, I answer that it would be smaller than the number of the Technical Instruction Board is as arranged under the Bill. If a board of twenty-four can do the work of the Technical Instruction Board I cannot understand why a board of sixteen is too large for the Board of Agriculture. I do not think it will be possible to get anything like a full attendance of the board at any meeting, because, often through sickness or urgent business, a man may be prevented from attending, because the work is purely voluntary, and it is possible that from these causes alone some of the provinces may not be represented at all at some of the meetings. These are views which I strongly hold, and I appeal to the Chief Secretary to meet us in this matter.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 29, to leave out the word 'two,' and insert the word 'four,' instead thereof."—(*Mr. Dillon.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'two' stand part of the Bill."

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The hon. Member for East Mayo has drawn a comparison between the Board of Technical Instruction and the Board of Agriculture, and he has asked why the former has twenty-four members, while we are unwilling to allow more than twelve for the Board of Agriculture. I should have been quite content to cut down the Technical Instruction Board to twelve, because I am convinced that a board of twelve members is decidedly more efficient than a board of twenty-four. After a great deal of careful consideration of all the various interests which have to be represented on the Board of Technical Instruction, I could not see how I could very well cut the numbers down, unless it was by giving to Belfast, Dublin, and Cork the same representation as the county boroughs. I am afraid that if I had made that proposal Belfast and Dublin would have objected, and I am not anxious to incur the hostility of these two cities. Therefore, I thought I would give this extra representation to these two cities, and I do not see how it is possible, consistently with something like equality, to give Dublin and Belfast less than three representatives. I can assure the hon. Member that there is no sinister *arrière pensée* behind the proposal contained in the Bill. I still think that a board of twelve in the case of the Technical Instruction Board would have been a more efficient body than it is now, and I certainly think that twelve is a better number for the Agricultural Board.

MR. DAVITT (Mayo, S.): The right hon. Gentleman looked with alarm at having to face the opposition of Belfast and Dublin, but he is evidently not afraid of a possible rising in the provinces by limiting their representation on a most important board to so small a number. I very much regret that the right hon. Gentleman has not seen his way to accept my hon. friend's Amendment. I am sure that he is anxious to make this Bill popular in Ireland, and he would undoubtedly make it more workable if he rendered it more popular, and I am sure he would do that if he increased the number of representatives for the provinces. I can assure him that we are not ani-

mated by any desire to render any of these councils or boards unwieldy, and if he is dissatisfied that twenty-four members on the Technical Instruction Board will enable that part of the work to be well done, surely a smaller number on the Agricultural Board will enable the work of that Department to be carried out just as well. I am sorry that the Chief Secretary has not seen his way to accept this Amendment, and I trust the right hon. Gentleman will yet be able to reconsider his decision.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.): I do hope the Government will agree to this proposal, for even if my hon. friend's Amendment is carried it will still give the Government one-fifth of the Board to nominate, which I think would be quite enough for all purposes. I think it must be admitted that two for each province is a very limited representation of the popular voice. It is very desirable that men elected on this Agricultural Board should be thoroughly competent and able to speak for the various interests they represent, and I think it is desirable, having regard to the importance of the agricultural industry, that each province should have one representative for ordinary farming, another for the dairy interest, and another to represent the labouring community. I quite agree with the views put forward by the hon. Member for East Mayo, that while you have only two representatives for each large province you will experience great difficulty of selection so as to get all interests fairly represented, and it will be very much better if the number is increased. Although the right hon. Gentleman does not appear to look with favour upon this proposal, I hope he has not said the last word on it.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): This is not a very large matter, and I hope the Government will give way. Surely this Bill is getting through the House upon very easy terms, and when an Amendment is proposed which does not raise any question of principle, I think the Government might accept it.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE: I think the right hon. Gentleman might make the number three in each province, for this would not make any practical difference in the working of the Board. At

Mr. Daritt.

present you have twelve, and if you accept this, it will only make the number 16. Three members from each province would allow all classes to be represented, whereas the present number will really interfere with its working. I do hope that the right hon. Gentleman will agree to allow three members from each province.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I may point out that the four members to be appointed by the Department will be gentlemen who can give constant and regular attendance, but, from the necessity of the case, the representatives of the provinces will scarcely be able to attend so regularly. Then I think the labouring community ought to have some representation on this body, and if you have only two representatives the chances of the labour element being directly represented will be very remote indeed. I think for that reason alone the Government ought to accept the Amendment in favour of three representatives, and thus give all classes in Ireland who are interested in agriculture a fair opportunity of being represented on this Board, which is going to perform such important functions.

MR. MICHAEL AUSTIN (Limerick, W.): I do not quite understand the position of the Chief Secretary. If the agricultural population is 70 per cent. of the entire population, the Agricultural Board becomes the more important of the two. If the Technical Instruction Board has twenty-four members under this Bill, the agricultural element, according to the ratio of population, as contrasted with the industrial element, ought to have a representation on the Agricultural Board of over fifty members. I also wish to say a few words in support of the view of my hon. friend the Member for North Cork. Throughout the entire progress of this Bill there has been evidenced by the Chief Secretary a desire to avoid the representation of the labour element. In the Grand Committee that was evidenced most strongly, and we have it again in the Agricultural Board, that no representation whatever will be given to the interest most affected. The representation, as proposed, will lead to the undue representation of the large landed interest, but why should those who work and toil, and are the bone and sinew of the country, not be fairly represented? I contend

that the Agricultural Board should be double the number at present proposed. Surely it is not too much to ask the Chief Secretary, at this stage of the proceedings, to reconsider his decision with regard to the matter.

MR. DILLON: Before we proceed to a Division, may I be permitted to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he would even go so far as to say that he will consider this matter with an open mind between now and the Committee stage in another place? If he will, I will not take a Division.

MR. COURTNEY (Cornwall, Bodmin): I would appeal to the right hon. Gentleman to consider the advantage of increasing the representation of the provincial committee of each province from two to three. If he increased the representation from two to three, he might provide that in the election of three members from each province no elector should vote for more than two, and thus introduce the element of proportional representation.

LORD EDMOND FITZMAURICE (Wiltshire, Cricklade): I hope the Chief Secretary will be able to accept the offer which has been made by my hon. friend the Member for East Mayo. I had the honour of presiding over the Committee upstairs, and that is my only reason for interposing at this stage. The only objection that has been stated is that there might be some risks in making the board too large, and therefore to a certain extent, unworkable. It seems to me that the numbers would not be very great if this Amendment were accepted. Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman might see his way, after the offer of my hon. friend, to reconsider the subject.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I am prepared to consider the point between now and the time when this Bill reaches another place. With regard to the pet subject of my right hon. friend, I am afraid I cannot hold out any hope that I shall be able to satisfy him.

MR. DILLON: Then I withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Other Amendments made.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be read the third time."—*(Mr. G. W. Balfour.)*

MR. T. M. HEALY: I congratulate the Government on getting the Bill through so easily. I only rose to take exception to one point. I had intended to say on the Second Reading that I thought it was open to some doubts whether the £12,000 provided for in Clause 15, out of the saving raised by the abolition of the judgeships, was a sufficient sum. We have had no statement whatever from the Treasury, nor any figures given us to show how this sum is arrived at. In my opinion the amount required will be not £12,000, but a much larger sum. I think the time has arrived when Irish Members of all sections—Conservative or Liberal—should be prepared to attack the Treasury upon their figures at every hand's turn, and to insist upon some kind of Select Committee in regard to it. We have had to take upon trust the statement that £12,000 is a sufficient sum. In dealing with public accounts, we should have some body in this House which would be able to cross-examine these Treasury experts, for the purpose of finding out on what basis their figures are arrived at. I also desire to take some exception to the expenditure for the Inland and Sea Fisheries Fund. In my opinion you will find that it really did not arise for State purposes at all, and therefore the State has no claim to dispose of this fund in the manner proposed. What we should like really to investigate is whether the large salvages of public money, which are annually transmitted as unexpended money, should go back, not to the British Treasury, but to some board such as this on all future occasions. You have at the present moment in Ireland a Public Votes Office, where Scotch and English gentlemen are simply agents for the Treasury, and do not spend the money which this House votes. This House is led to believe that large sums voted for public purposes have been spent; but in point of fact these gentlemen, by a secret process, intercept the money in transit, and prevent it reaching the Departments upon which the money ought so be expended, pouring the money back again into the lap of the Treasury. I therefore say that the time has arrived when some serious

step will have to be taken by Irish Members to overlook the system of expenditure by the British Treasury. At one time we had the promise of some safeguard with regard to the expenditure of the money. Now we have no protection whatever. We depend upon a knot of English officials, whose one idea is to bleed Ireland white, and to get as much money as they can out of us, and to give us as little back as possible. Under these circumstances, while congratulating the Government upon the passage of the Bill, it must not be supposed for a moment that I accept the figures given by the Treasury under Section 15.

MR. POWER : By this Bill the Government take over the looking after of the fisheries of Ireland, and I hope sincerely they may be able to do some good in that direction, because we all recognise that those fisheries are capable of great development. I rose particularly to call the attention of the Irish Secretary to what occurred in Supply on Friday night, when I raised the question of the way in which the Admiralty treat us with regard to the protection of our fisheries. All the trawlers which are driven from the English, Welsh, and Scotch coasts come over to our coast, and the result is they are doing a great deal of damage to the lines and trammels and nets of the fishermen. The Bill which was passed some years ago is absolutely useless. The proposition and suggestion I made was that, seeing it is absolutely impossible that the working staff under this present Bill could be ready in a very short time, pending the completion of arrangements, the Admiralty might lend a gunboat or two to enforce these bye-laws. The First Lord of the Treasury most considerately said he would confer with the First Lord of the Admiralty and the Chief Secretary on the subject, and he hoped something would be done satisfactorily for the Irish fisheries. What I ask now is that the Irish Secretary should not allow the House to separate before he meets the First Lord of the Admiralty and the Leader of the House, so that something may be done to stop the system which it has been found necessary to stop on your own coasts, and which is working great harm to our already rather poor fisheries.

Mr. T. M. Healy.

***MR. WILLIAM JOHNSTON :** I should like to call the attention of the Chief Secretary to an institution almost on a par with the Munster Institution. There has been recently established the Ulster Agricultural and Dairy School and Henry Trust, on a farm of fifty acres, with a sum of £12,000 in the funds, an accumulation of money left by the late Mr. Thomas Henry, to found a school in the parish of Down. The Lord Chancellor has recently sanctioned the scheme to carry out the trust, which embraces the admission of girls as well as boys. While not in the least grudging the Munster Institution and the Albert Institution the well-deserved grants which are given by this Bill, I should like to claim for this Ulster School some consideration. I trust that the Government will consider the claims of the Ulster Agricultural School, which proposes to benefit the whole of the province, to share in the benefits which are conferred on the Munster School by the Bill. I have now only to congratulate the right hon. Gentleman, the Government, and Ireland generally, upon the achievement we shall witness to-day in the passing of this Bill, which all parts of the country are unanimous in approving.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE : I also desire to congratulate the right hon. Gentleman on the passage of this Bill. It is an extremely useful measure, and one which will confer benefits on Ireland which will become greater and greater as years go on. The hon. Member for North Louth has raised a very important question in the few remarks he addressed to the House, a question which I hope we shall be able to follow up in another session, but which I do not intend to deal with now. I should like to say a few words about the matter mentioned by my hon. friend the Member for East Waterford. Like him, I am very much interested in the sea-fishing industry, and have to complain of the enormous amount of damage which is done by steam trawlers which come to the waters in the Irish bays and harbours, and carry on their trawling depredations absolutely unhindered. We simply want the Fishery Board to have the use of a couple of gunboats to hunt these gentry away. I think, in consideration of the contribution

we make to the naval defence of the Empire, we might have that protection. As to this present Bill, the whole success or non-success of the measure will depend on its administration, and inasmuch as it has been supported as a non-political measure, I hope, in the appointments which the right hon. Gentleman is going to make in connection with the various boards and institutions under the Bill, he will make those also non-political. The right hon. Gentleman will be deluged with applications for appointments under the Bill, and I am certain he will do what we want him to do; that is, give the appointments to the best men he can possibly get. A number of these appointments will probably have to be given to foreigners, as, even in Ireland, we cannot produce experts in certain departments. I hope the right hon. Gentleman will act with a wise discretion, and appoint the men who, in his opinion, will work this measure so as to produce the greatest amount of benefit to the people of Ireland.

MR. DAVITT: I trust the Chief Secretary will respond to the appeal made by the hon. Member for South Belfast in favour of organising in Ulster an institution similar to that in Munster, because I think Connaught would then have a very good chance of obtaining one also. I fully agree with the remarks of the hon. Member for North Louth, with regard to the finance of the Bill. It is absurd to propose to improve the great agricultural and allied industries of Ireland by the niggardly allowance of what will amount to about 3d. per head of the population per annum. At the same time, our people are over-taxed in proportion to their capacity to the extent of 15s. per head per annum for the benefit of the voracious English Treasury. There is another marked contrast in the finance of this measure. At the present time, in one of the most crimeless countries in the world, a constabulary force has to be maintained at a cost of about 17s. per head per annum. Upstairs, I ventured to give, in sporting language, a "straight tip" to the Chief Secretary as to how he could raise enough money to enable the machinery of this Bill to confer great benefits upon Irish industries, viz., that the Royal Irish Constabulary should be reduced by one-third, by which means an annual sum of £400,000 would be saved, which would

be available for subsidising the various industries under this Bill, and for the furtherance of the interests of Irish agriculture and technical instruction. I sincerely hope the Chief Secretary will take this suggestion of mine into consideration, and that at a not very distant date it may be carried into effect.

*MR. ARTHUR MOORE (London-derry): I desire to associate myself with the congratulations to the Chief Secretary on the passage of this Bill. Now that he has got his Bill, and the House has given him a practically free hand, I think we are entitled to ask the Chief Secretary to give us the very best men to work the Bill, no matter what part of the world they happen to come from. I supported the right hon. Gentleman through thick and thin, and perhaps I could not exactly defend all I voted for, but I took the measure as a whole. I believe it will be a useful Bill, because with a decaying population such as that of Ireland, the only possible remedy is education and industry. I would have wished that this Bill were the crowning stone of a great educational policy. Instead of having it this year, I would prefer to have had a great educational Bill from which we could work steadily up. This Bill ought to have followed a large educational measure, which would have rendered it more fruitful. I earnestly hope the right hon. Gentleman will proceed with this industrial policy, which began with the Congested Districts Board, was renewed again with that Board, was exemplified in the extension of light railways, especially in the north-west of Ireland, and is crowned to-day with this industrial measure.

MR. DILLON: I have no objection to the Third Reading of the Bill being taken at this period, and I venture to express the hope that the measure may be of benefit to Ireland. I thank the Chief Secretary for the manner in which he has met those of us who engaged in the discussion of this Bill. On many important matters he remained obdurate, but on other important, though minor, matters he met us fairly, and the Bill is now a better Bill. I have been, of course, made the object of much criticism, because I insisted from the beginning that a Bill dealing with such vital and impor-

tant matters should not be passed through the House of Commons *sub silentio*. I think what has occurred has fully justified my action. I admit I was not satisfied, and am not yet satisfied that this Bill was not discussed in a full Committee of the House. It was represented to us truly, no doubt, that that was impossible at the present stage of the session. But that is no answer to us. We were entitled to have the Bill introduced earlier. But be that as it may, we have obtained very considerable and under the circumstances a fair amount of discussion. It has been said by two hon. Members that the great and vital question as to whether this Bill is to be beneficial or not now largely depends on the spirit of its administration. The hon. Baronet the Member for West Kerry gave the Chief Secretary some excellent advice, and I have no doubt the right hon. Gentleman will obtain advice on the same lines from many other quarters. I will, however, remain sceptical until I see some concrete proof of a determination on the part of the Irish Government to break its record. I do not question the good intentions of the right hon. Gentleman. I believe he honestly means to do what the hon. Baronet urged him to do, namely, in making appointments under this Act to turn his back on the traditions of the Irish Government, and to look only on the merits of the men. As the hon. Baronet correctly stated, the Chief Secretary is the miserable recipient of innumerable applications for positions. An official stated within my hearing, when 5,000 was mentioned as the probable number of applications already received, that that was infinitely beneath the proper number. I have no doubt the right hon. Gentleman will endeavour to appoint the best men. I hope he may succeed, but if he does appoint men who have no political pull, and whose only qualifications are their merits, the very clothes will be torn off his back and he will be driven out of Ireland before very long. The right hon. Gentleman provided the machinery of this measure on his own lines. He attached very great importance to the proposal that he should have control of, and full responsibility for the working of this Act, and our proposal to the contrary was defeated. He is the Department, and nobody can say that he has not full

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control, and he said because he had experience he was the proper man to bring the Act into operation. I greatly fear, however, that the traditions which cluster round Dublin Castle, and which are very largely the cause of the hatred we bear to that institution, will prove too strong for him, and that men will receive appointments whose only claims are based on political services.

MR. FLYNN: I desire to congratulate the Chief Secretary on the ability and perseverance he has shown in piloting this Bill through all its stages, but I cannot congratulate the Government on the manner in which this Bill is to receive Third Reading this evening. It was brought in under the Ten minutes' rule, and the Government sought by one means or another to evade all discussion on it, and they thought we ought to accept the principle of take it or leave it. I congratulate my hon. friend the Member for East Mayo, and his friends, who believed that the Bill should be subjected to discussion and criticism, and I join with him in believing that the Bill has emerged from the Committee stage better in some respects, and certainly modified in others. We had hoped we might have been able to stamp the Bill with more democratic characteristics, but on that we were not successful, though I, as one who took a small part in that direction, am pleased that I took that part. I join with all my colleagues in asking the right hon. Gentleman, in the appointments he is going to make, to rise superior to the considerations which officially surround him and to the traditions of Dublin Castle, and expressing the hope that he will appoint men not because of their connection with politics, but because they are men thoroughly conversant with the great questions of industry and agriculture with which the Department will have to deal.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: Before the Bill is read a third time I would wish to make a few remarks on the speeches to which we have just listened. The hon. and learned Member for North Louth criticises the sufficiency of the sum of £12,000 provided by the Treasury. I think if the hon. and learned Member examines this question further he will feel that on this occasion the Treasury have not been ungenerous. The sum of £5,500

a year represents the saving made by the abolition of judgeships and the consolidation of courts, but as a matter of fact up to the present there has been no saving, and there cannot be any saving for a considerable number of years. Of course, any estimate must be to some extent speculative, but I believe that, in getting the sum of £12,000, Ireland is getting more than she would get if the exact sum had been carefully calculated by the Treasury year by year. As to the Sea and Coast Fisheries Fund, the hon. and learned Member is quite correct in stating that in its origin, some fifty years ago, that sum was derived from private contributions, but it has been administered for a considerable time past by some department connected with the Irish Government. The hon. Member for East Waterford appealed to me to use my influence with the Admiralty to secure the services of a couple of gunboats to protect the Irish fisheries, and the hon. Member attributed the injury inflicted in the Irish fisheries by trawlers, to the fact that there are no regulations with regard to the trawling in Ireland similar to the Scotch law. I think this is a question not so much of law as of administration. Ever since I came to the Irish Office, I have felt very strongly that the administration of the Irish fisheries was not what I should like to see it, and that trawlers committed depredations to a large extent unchecked. I have done what I could in the matter. I have constantly pressed the Admiralty for the services of a vessel, but the Admiralty have come to the conclusion that it is not a part of their duty to police the sea for fishery purposes. Every now and again I have succeeded in obtaining the services of a gunboat where some flagrant case of illegality was committed, but, of course, long before the gunboat arrived on the scene, the trawler had disappeared. I have come to the conclusion that nothing short of placing at the disposal of this Department a swift vessel will at all meet the case. As the hon. Member for East Waterford is aware, I have inserted in this Bill an express provision enabling the Department to expend money for the supervision and protection of fishing grounds, and the enforcement of local bye-laws. I am quite willing to accept the suggestion of the hon. Member, but the position taken up by the Admiralty does not leave much room for hope of a large

measure of success. However, I will make every effort to secure gunboats. I think that the remaining observations that have been made are merely of a general character. The hon. Baronet the Member for West Kerry exhorted me to exercise care in making the appointments under the Act, and not to make them political rewards. Sir, the Irish Government have had the policy embodied in this Bill in their serious consideration for years. For four years the subject has been dwelling in my mind. I actually prepared a Bill the first year I was in office. In the following year a Bill was introduced, but had to be withdrawn, to make way for the Local Government Bill, and now we have had this Bill which is now being passed. I can say from my heart that it shall be my endeavour to make it a success. I recognise most thoroughly that the success of this measure depends to a very large extent on the way in which it is administered, and it will be my strenuous endeavour to get the very best men to carry it out. In conclusion, I beg to thank hon. Members from Ireland for the kind way in which they have spoken of this Bill, and the intentions of the Government in introducing it, and for their co-operation in passing it through the House.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

TELEGRAPHS (TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION, &c.) BILL.

Order for Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now considered."

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfarshire): I rise to move that this Bill be considered on this day three months. I hope I need make no apology to the House in taking this step in place of the hon. Member who has devoted a great deal of time to the question. We are at a considerable disadvantage in discussing a Bill of such magnitude at this late period of the session. It is obvious that when a proposal coming from the Government is accepted as advantageous by London and a great number of municipalities, a good deal of opposition to the Bill is obviated. It is quite true that those interested seem

to accept this Bill as a solution of a very difficult question, but it is also the case that behind the attitude and opinion of London and the large municipalities, there exists an alternative policy. There is no doubt that if London and the municipalities are willing to accept the proposals of the Bill, they would have been equally willing to accept in some form or other a national system of telephones. But the alternative has been rigidly excluded, unfortunately, from consideration. It is quite true that the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary to the Treasury discussed that alternative, and gave reasons which were admitted by the right hon. Member for London University as conclusive against any national system, but as a whole the right hon. Gentleman has been obliged to work within limits. In my humble opinion this is very unfortunate, but I hope it will not be argued by the right hon. Gentleman that this question has been decided, and that therefore we have no business to re-open it. I do not want to import into this discussion anything extraneous, but the magnitude and importance of the issue lay upon us the responsibility of not excluding anything which, on its merits, ought to be considered in connection with this important subject. Now, in the first place, this is an entirely new Bill. The Government proposal now laid before us is not the Bill which went upstairs; it is not even the Bill which left the Committee. The changes made are so radical, and so essential, that it seems to me that the proper course the House should take is to recommit the Bill for full and careful consideration. Besides being an entirely new Bill, the present proposals are an absolutely new departure in the attitude of the Government towards telephone enterprise. The alteration of the date when the licence of the National Telephone Company was to expire, from 1911 to 1925, under certain conditions, is in direct antagonism, not only to the attitude of former Governments, but also to the attitude of the Select Committees, and in direct contradiction to the attitude of the right hon. Gentleman some time ago. I could quote the right hon. Gentleman's words to show that he has been definite and strenuous in his opinion that this question was closed, not to be reopened, and that everyone was agreed that beyond 1911 the licence of the National Telephone Company should not

be prolonged. Of course, the right hon. Gentleman will say that he has got concessions from the National Telephone Company which will make the new concession to the company not, on the whole, disadvantageous; but I think the objections I have stated should be fatal to the present proposals. I do not speak as an advocate of any one interest concerned, but I do say that, under the conditions foreshadowed by the right hon. Gentleman's proposals, it will make things worse than before. The right hon. Gentleman will not deny that we shall have vigorous competition from the Post Office. In the second place, we have given fresh powers to the National Company, and vigorous competition is certain to follow from these fresh powers. I do not blame the company; they are a trading concern, and must look after the interests of their shareholders. Well, then, we shall also have the competition of the municipalities. Under certain conditions, when a municipality receives a licence, the National Company will have their licence prolonged. I say that is an infringement of the attitude hitherto entertained by all in this House, and by all the experts. Then, again, the right hon. Gentleman proposes to allow urban and sanitary authorities to give licences to fresh companies in their districts. We shall have a sacrifice of public convenience by the muddle sure to be brought on by these proposals. I think it is very unjustifiable to go entirely against all experience. The right hon. Gentleman will not deny that hitherto the outlook of all critics of our telephone system has been that in 1911 that system would become a national one. The right hon. Gentleman himself said, Why should we do this or that, when the business will fall into our lap in 1911? It is alleged against a national telephone system that it would vastly increase the number of employees, and their wages in the Post Office; but I fail to see why that should be any ground for the proposals in the present Bill. With the Government owning the telegraphs, it seems to me to be perfectly absurd to stick at theoretical considerations in regard to the State ownership of telephones. The telegraphs and the telephones are intimately connected, and must work together, and if the Government were to take the telephones over, it would not involve anything like the increase of

Captain Sinclair.

staff or wages which would have to be made if they were taken over by any other body. Then what is to become of the rural districts under this Bill? The Post-office propose to expend £2,000,000 in extending the system in London, and the rural districts would be left out in the cold. It is only the Post-Office, only a national concern, which you can rely on to develop the poorer parts of the country as well as the richer; to apply the profits of the undertaking in the richer areas to extending the benefits to the poorer areas of the country. I have great admiration for the perseverance and tenacity which the right hon. Gentleman has shown in great difficulties; but I must hold that in making these proposals there has been a surrender of the whole position. It is impossible to ask the House to assent to the Bill in its present form at so late a period of the session, and I therefore beg to move that it be considered this day three months.

MR. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.): I beg to second the motion made by my hon. and gallant friend. I will only criticise, in a very few sentences, the considerations that have already been laid before the House. It is a fact that this is a new Bill compared with what it was when it was sent upstairs. And it is a new Bill in a direction of which the majority of the House and the country would not approve, if they were fully alive to the changes made in it. If any one examines the Bill, he would be able to see that, as an adequate settlement of the telephone system on a real national basis, such as the Secretary to the Treasury promised us in the earlier stages of the Debate, we are further away from it than at the beginning of the session. I am not opposed to municipal enterprise in any degree, and there is no doubt that the hon. Gentleman has been enabled to satisfy and conciliate very large and powerful communities in the country, and in the House. He has been able to shake the opposition of London itself, and to get over the opposition from large municipalities like Glasgow; but what has he done for the smaller centres of population, and the rural districts? He says that the rural districts are to be able to establish telephones. In my part of the country an urban district has been interpreted to include a police burgh, and the majority of these have a population below five

thousand. Is it within practical politics to say that these are going to establish a telephone system in their district? We are merely playing with words in a clause of that sort. Instead of a great national system, we are shutting out from the benefits to be obtained from a national system all the small towns and villages. With regard to the treatment of the small municipalities where the National Telephone Company have already obtained a footing, it must be well-known to the right hon. Gentleman, from the correspondence he has had, the way in which towns like Fraserburgh have been treated by that company. I say that at this period of the session, and with a new Bill before us, it is impossible to have a settlement of this question, which is to last for the next twenty-five years, or which is likely to be satisfactory to public opinion, or to keep pace with telephone communication in other countries of Europe. The Secretary to the Treasury has taken power to extend the licence of the National Telephone Company to 1925.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): Only in places where there is competition.

MR. BUCHANAN: The right hon. Gentleman insisted in this House, when he introduced the Bill, and on the Second Reading, that in 1911 the licence of the National Company came to an end; but now it can be extended to 1925. I am not saying this in hostility to the right hon. Gentleman, because we have looked upon him as our champion, and the champion of the public interest against this monopolist company, which lurks in all the lobbies, and sits on the benches of this House. The right hon. Gentleman has stood up for national interests, but I am sorry to say that in the last round of the contest he has apparently been defeated. I am certain that if he were to postpone this Bill to next session he would obtain popular sympathy. We should next year get a much better measure than the one now before the House, and one based on national grounds. I urge that we ought not to extend the licence of the National Telephone Company, and put a large part of the country for twenty-five years under the domination of the company which has done so much to stifle telephone interest.

in the past. The only true and sensible solution of the problem is to nationalise the telephones and put them in the hands of the Post Office. I warmly support the motion of my hon. and gallant friend.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day three months.'"—(*Captain Sinclair.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

SIR CHARLES CAMERON (Glasgow, Bridgeton): I trust that the House will not allow itself to be influenced by the arguments of my hon. friends. I have for many years been interested in obtaining a better system of telephones. Glasgow has led the movement, and is anxious to obtain powers to establish municipal telephones, and I am certain that this Bill has been made more acceptable to those who favour that principle. The Bill, moreover, has been enormously improved in Committee. How many municipalities would care to establish telephonic exchanges under conditions that bring them to a close in eleven years? There can be no real competition in such conditions. And I am certain you would not get six municipalities throughout the kingdom to embark in such an expensive business for such a short period. If towns like Glasgow choose to accept licences terminating in 1911, with the risk of a renewal, they can do so, and the licence of the National Telephone Company will not, in such cases, I believe, be extended. In proposing to extend the licence the right hon. Gentleman has taken the best step to ensure municipal competition. Personally, I want all the competition we can get, and if we had competition between the municipalities and the telephone company we should have a better service for the public than if either was granted a monopoly. There is only one other point to which I wish to allude. The question of intercommunication is a most important subject, and the right hon. Gentleman has, after negotiations, arrived at what appears to me to be an equitable arrangement. Glasgow is willing to go on without any right of intercommunication, and the authorities are confident that the company will in time come to them and ask for intercommunication to be made. I heartily congratulate the

hon. Gentlemen who have secured the arrangement for intercommunication, and though this Bill does not go the length which I should desire to see, it is, in my opinion, a great improvement to the Bill as originally introduced into the House. If my hon. friend goes to a Division, I can only say I shall have to vote against him.

MR. PROVAND (Glasgow, Blackfriars): I hope that my hon. friend will withdraw the Amendment. The hon. Gentleman who supported this Bill supported it on the ground that it would not nationalise the telephones of this country. Many people do not know what nationalisation means; it does not mean that we shall get the telephones for nothing, but that they shall be handed over to the country as a matter of purchase. Nationalisation of telephones is not a feasible project. The only method by which the country can acquire the telephone service is to pay five or six millions; that is the only method of nationalisation. It has been suggested by members of various Stock Exchanges that the country should buy the telephones at a cost of £6,850,000. If that were acceded to, it would mean that the country would pay 1½ millions more than the shares of the company are worth; and what should we buy for that? Plant, the bulk of which is worthless. In Glasgow there are about 6,000 wires, and to buy the telephone system on the Stock Exchange principle would cost £56 or £57 per wire, or more than £300,000. The plant of the company in Glasgow could not be sold at any such high price. Except in a few places the plant of the company is obsolete, and the agitation to substitute modern plant must compel the company to reconstruct all the present telephone plant in the country. There are only two ways in which the plant of the company could be bought—by private agreement, or under the arbitration clause in the licence. But no Government or Chancellor of the Exchequer could permit this arbitration clause to be used. I wish to satisfy those on this side of the House who support nationalisation that it is an absolutely impossible scheme, and the right hon. Gentleman was perfectly well aware of that when he said he would rather spend the taxpayers' money in buying new plant than obsolete plant. One hon. Gentleman said he thought the telephones could be

worked more cheaply by the Government than by anyone else, but had he been cognisant of the expense of the working of the Post Office telephones he would not have made that remark. In no case where they are now conducting the service have the Post Office been able to compete with the National Telephone Company. The Bill no doubt will have much greater effect in the rural parts of the country than in the towns, and I believe that under it many rural places will be able to get a telephone service for a subscription of £1 a year. I therefore hope my hon. friend will withdraw his Amendment for the rejection of the Bill; if he does not, I shall have no option but to vote against him.

*MR. FAITHFULL BEGG (Glasgow, St. Rollox): I do not propose to follow the hon. Gentleman in the remarks which he has made on a matter which has been discussed at such length. Every business man knows that it is neither fair nor reasonable to take as the basis of purchase of a going concern, built up as the National Telephone Company has been, how much money it will take to replace it. That is not the basis on which to discuss it. My main reason for rising is that I have an Amendment, which I need not now move, and so save the time of the House. I might, however, say that the Bill has been changed in two important particulars since Second Reading—namely, the extension of licences beyond 1911, and the permission to form new companies, the first of which the Secretary to the Treasury formerly declared to be contrary to common-sense and the second to be practically impossible. The new provisions make it necessary that the Bill should be seriously considered at this stage. In my opinion the new provisions are bad, because the country is thus brought face to face with the contingency of having four different authorities carrying on telephonic business—namely, the Post Office, the existing company, the corporations, and new companies. Yet if there is one thing which they were led to understand would be vital to a good telephonic system it was that the whole of the subscribers should be on one circuit and be able to intercommunicate with each other. I do not know whether my hon. friend intends to take a Division on this motion or not, but if I may offer him advice, I would

say that I do not think it is an advisable thing to do, because I am sure that it is the general feeling of the House that this measure should go forward. For myself, the idea under which I always opposed this proposal was that nationalisation was the right thing, but now nationalisation has absolutely gone, and that having been decided, I am content to devote myself to one or two small Amendments which I shall move later on, and which I think will be improvements.

MR. CHARLES MCARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange): I do not agree with the hon. Member who has just sat down that nationalisation has gone. I will not deal with that point further than to say that I entirely repudiate the view put forward by the hon. Gentleman opposite. Those who advocate nationalisation do not propose for a moment that if the State took over the telephone we should pay an exorbitant price for it, and our proposal is only to pay its real value. If, as the hon. Member opposite has suggested, the system of the National Telephone Company is obsolete, then the real value can be ascertained, and all we have advocated is nationalisation at a fair valuation. Those whom I represent are not satisfied by the Amendments which have been made in the Standing Committee on Trade, which have rendered the measure more complex than it was at first. As the Bill came before the House in the first instance, it proposed that municipal authorities containing a population of 50,000 or over should be allowed to establish systems of their own. That has now been enlarged so as to include all local authorities and local companies, and therefore the system now proposed is much more complex. My hon. friend the Member for the Blackfriars Division of Glasgow has pointed out that the Bill would create four distinct sources of telephone supply, that is, the Post Office, the local authorities, the local companies, and the National Telephone Company. I would ask the House, is it reasonable to suppose that all these various authorities will work together in angelic harmony, and is it not much more likely that there will be local difficulties and jealousies which will prevent anything like that harmony which is so essential for the success of telephonic communication? I want the House to consider what will be the result

of this Bill if it passes. My own opinion is that it will not lead to municipal authorities setting up telephone systems of their own to any large extent. Take, for instance, the 114 boroughs in England, the 13 boroughs in Scotland, and the 103 urban districts in England who have concluded agreements with the National Telephone Company. Is it likely that they will depart from those agreements? The conditions which are laid down for these authorities are of such a nature that they will not depart from their present arrangement, and they are likely to increase their indisposition to enter into such an enterprise. The Post Office is to have complete control over all their proceedings; they have to see what is the character and construction of the plant, and arrange the system of charges. They have to fix the maximum rate of charges, and, in short, these municipal authorities may make a loss but not a profit. If they make a loss they are still to contribute a royalty of ten per cent. upon their gross receipts. But after all, the most serious aspect of this scheme, in my judgment, is that it sanctions the prolongation of the National Telephone Company's licence beyond 1911. We have all along gone on the assumption that 1911 was to be the end of it, and from that time there was to be a new system introduced which would satisfy all the demands of the public, and do away with the monopoly. The Commission of 1892 recommended the non-renewal of this licence, and my right hon. friend the Secretary to the Treasury was of the same opinion a very short time ago when he addressed a deputation which I had the honour of introducing to him, for he said:

"If the municipal system is found not to work satisfactorily it will be perfectly within our power in 1911 to terminate that service and nationalise the service everywhere."

And we find only a few weeks after these words are uttered steps are taken and proposals are made, which have the effect of continuing this monopoly of the National Telephone Company for, perhaps, an additional twelve or thirteen years. The hon. Member for Bridgeton pointed out that the right hon. Gentleman only proposes to increase the licence at points where there is competition. I cannot understand how that can be done in the case of the National Telephone Com-

pany. It seems to me quite impracticable that you can say to the National Telephone Company: "We continue your licence here and there at perhaps a dozen different points where competition is set up, but we withdraw your licence as a whole." I would like to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether it is still impossible for him to reconsider this Bill. The measure has been opposed by the business men of the country if we take the chambers of commerce to represent them. This measure has been opposed by every chamber of commerce which has considered the subject, with the exception of the chamber of commerce at Tunbridge Wells. There were thirty-six chambers of commerce represented by the deputation which I had the honour to introduce, including many important centres, and all were strongly opposed to this measure. It has also been objected to by the Stock Exchanges, and surely they are entitled to an opinion on the subject. It has been opposed by many of the leading corporations, the Society of Arts and Manufactures, and by the Society of Electrical Engineers. Therefore, I venture to say with great respect that it would be a great mistake to insist upon forcing upon the country a system which has been so generally condemned.

MR. MOULTON (Cornwall, Launceston): I think the best way of dealing with this Bill is by the motion which has been made that it shall be dealt with this day three months, because this is practically a new Bill. You might as well attach these new provisions on a Highways Act as to attach them to the simple Bill brought in by the Secretary to the Treasury, and which received the completest support on this side of the House, and I believe also of a very large portion on the other side. I oppose this measure because I think it is a most discreditable surrender to a rich company, which is ahead of all other companies in the art of manipulating this House. I say this with the deepest regret, because no one heard with greater delight and sympathy than I did the manly, honourable, and public-spirited statement of the Secretary to the Treasury when he first introduced this Bill. That was a Bill to enable the public to use the powers which it had reserved, and which it had a right, with-

Mr. Charles McArthur.

out dictation from any company, to use in the best interests of the public. The Bill as it stands at present is a surrender of those powers, and a consent to tie the hands of the public in working this system. In the few remarks which I intend to offer to this House, I want to ascertain what right the National Telephone Company has to come and dictate terms to this House, when the English nation desires to use telephonic communication more largely. When the original licence was granted, it was granted with a most foolish liberality to terms. The company was allowed to carry on its business just as it pleased, and there was no provision that the company should be so regulated that the best interests of the public would be furthered. Only two things were reserved, and otherwise they were absolutely at liberty to do what they liked. Those two things were—an absolute right to introduce competition, and the termination of the licence in 1911. With those exceptions everything was granted to the company. Of course the company availed itself of its limitless powers to the full. I remember in 1895 an attempt was made to secure that a reasonable service should be provided everywhere at a reasonable price, and the Government were asked to grant municipalities a licence if the National Telephone Company failed to provide a reasonable service. That suggestion was ignored because we were told that the National Telephone Company were bound to provide a reasonable service at a reasonable price. The nation had reserved the right to allow competition, and what is proposed now is that there should be competition introduced. Somehow or other there seems to be an idea that if you are dealing with rich companies every concession that has been made to them is sacred, and must be observed to the full, but everything which you have reserved in defence of the public must only be timidly or half used. I know of no such principle. The National Telephone Company made no bad bargain when they got this licence, for the enormous profits they have made are known throughout the world. I want to know, when we are thinking of increasing telephonic communication, and when we think it will be to the interests of the public that municipalities should have a right to set up these systems, what law or equity in the interests of the

National Telephone Company should stay the hands of the House of Commons when it seeks to exercise that power which was specifically reserved when the licence was granted. Supposing Glasgow wanted to have a licence, and it is given one up to 1925, what possible right can the National Telephone Company have to set up a claim that its licence, which it has enjoyed during all these profitable years when it had no competition, should also be extended? Why should we give away that portion of the property of the public? There is no reason which can be put even into moderately logical words why they should enjoy a lengthening of their licence just because we exercise that power which was specifically reserved, of granting as much competition as the nation thought proper to grant. But what is the reason which has been suggested why this ought to be done? This is a specimen of the sort of argument which, in the case of the National Telephone Company, is sufficient to sway the House of Commons. One of the concessions which the company has to make in order that its licence may be extended for all these years is that it has to treat people alike, and that it has not to make any special condition. I have known the National Telephone Company threaten to take the telephone away from a business man unless he allowed the company to put up a pole sixty feet high in his yard with 120 wires upon it. The company threatened to withdraw this man's telephone service if he did not grant them permission to put up that pole, although he was paying the same as other people for the use of the telephone. Why not bring in a Bill saying that there shall be no undue preference on the part of the company, and that there shall be no unfair treatment?

MR. HANBURY: That is what we are doing now.

MR. MOULTON; Yes, this Bill mentions that, but it buys that concession at the expense of privileges which are double the value of the concession, and the effect of which I will deal with presently. I think the House has a perfect right to pass a regulating Act in this

matter, for we do not ask the consent of the railway companies when we pass a railway traffic regulation Act. We pass such Acts because they are in the interests of the public, and in the true interests of the companies themselves. What is the other concession that we are to get? It is this—that the National Telephone Company is, where there is competition, to keep its charges within the limits of the prices charged by the competing company. That is a most wonderful concession, for it is a thing which it would have to do under the influence of competition. Those are the two miserable concessions we have got, one of which ought to have been granted without any return whatever, and the other of which would have come as a matter of course without any concession whatever. Those are the only miserable concessions asked for from the National Telephone Company in return for what? Why for this privilege—that wherever a town is driven to desperation by the bad management of their business by the National Telephone Company, and it resolves to take the telephonic communication into its own hands, it cannot get a period of years for its licence without also increasing the licence of the competing company. If Glasgow wants a twenty years' licence to set up a telephone exchange, this company, which has had the benefit of all these past rich years, is also to have an extension of its licence in Glasgow. I want to know what justification the Government have for that proposal, which seems to me to surrender practically for ever our right to come into possession of the telephonic communication. If there is to be any safety in Parliament dealing with a Bill of this kind, involving such great consequences, such a measure ought to have been brought in earlier in the session, and ought to have been passed through every one of its stages in the ordinary way. Practically, this Bill comes in once, and then becomes the law of the land. This is a disgraceful surrender of public rights, and it is a matter which ought not to be forced through in this way. Let me point out what the real effect of this Bill is. I am not at all sure that the licence of the National Telephone Company will not be extended by licences which may be granted after 1911. Supposing Glasgow asks for a licence up to 1925. In this case the National Telephone Company also

gets its licence extended to 1925; and if the Glasgow Corporation gets a continuance of its licence to 1950, the telephone company also gets its licence extended to 1950, and therefore the company's licence will be extended perpetually.

MR. HANBURY: No, no.

MR. MOULTON: I beg the right hon. Gentleman's pardon, but that is the fact as the Act now stands; and the consequence is, that at every place where a municipality is strong enough to form and keep alive a telephone exchange, there the company's licence is a perpetual one. Of course, the National Telephone Company just now are very quiet, for they know perfectly well the enormous victory they have gained. It will now be to their interest to get municipalities to start telephone companies and telephone exchanges, and to keep them as weak as possible; the only thing they must not do is to kill them outright. As long as they exist, the National Telephone Company will be far more free, as a company, than these municipalities will be as long as they choose to keep up their licence, because the telephone company will keep up its licence as well. Therefore, the municipalities, instead of being free in 1911 to provide a centralised system, and to work their telephone service like they now do their gas and water, will have committed themselves for ever to competition with a private company that has rights of that kind, and which is purchasing these rights by no substantial concessions. I may point out that a Bill like this is not treating either the English nation or this House fairly when such proposals are made on the Report stage, because when they are once passed they are irrevocable. We know what power the House has got to recall anything which it has granted to a private company, and we know that such concessions will be absolutely irrevocable. I ask whether we have had sufficient time to consider this enormous change in the House, and whether the trading community of this country have had time to consider it. This measure is proposing to make a perpetual burden upon the people, and I most heartily support the motion that the Report stage of this measure be taken three months hence.

Mr. Moulton.

I can assure those Gentlemen who thought there was a possibility of us not going into the Lobby upon this question that they are very much mistaken, for all hon. Members who vote against this proposal will clear themselves from having had anything to do with this most disgraceful surrender of public rights.

MR. HANBURY : The hon. and learned Member who has just sat down made some remarks at the end of his speech with which I entirely agree. He laid great stress upon the extravagant privileges which previous Governments have conferred upon the National Telephone Company. With those remarks I am entirely in accord, because I have always said from the first that it was past my comprehension how such powers could have been put into the hands of an unregulated monopoly. I do not, however, think that the hon. Gentleman opposite has quite fairly stated the case when he alleges that great concessions have been made to the company and nothing substantial has been given in return. In the first place, I must utterly deny that there is anything whatever in the Bill which gives him the slightest authority for supposing that, under any circumstances, the licence of the National Telephone Company can be perpetuated. I defy him to point out a single clause or word in the Bill which even encourages such a supposition ; and when he speaks of the extension of the licence, I have always myself contended that the general licence of the company should, under no circumstances, be extended beyond 1911. I think it was a monstrous thing, in the first instance, that a general licence extending over the whole country should ever have been given to the company at all. Therefore, I still maintain my opinion that, except in certain cases, for special local reasons, there is no justification whatever for extending the general licence of the company beyond 1911. Where are we proposing to extend the licence of the National Telephone Company ? Only in those areas where we are introducing new competition. And why are we proposing to extend it ? In the interest not of the National Telephone Company, but of the municipalities and the companies who will be in competition. Our Committee and all those who looked into the matter strongly recommended that wherever we introduced competition

we should do our best to deal equally between the company and its new competitors ; and therefore it is necessary that if we extend the licence to the municipalities we should also extend it to the National Telephone Company itself. No doubt the feeling throughout all the municipalities was that if this competition with the National Telephone Company, on the part of the municipalities or new companies, was to be genuine and strong, as we hope it is to be, we must grant to these municipalities and new companies a period extending beyond 1911. We are therefore bound by the Report of the Committee, and we want to deal fairly with the National Telephone Company and its new competitors, and to give the latter a chance of life. The National Telephone Company having been placed in the position it occupies by previous Governments, makes it very difficult to deal with this matter. I am sure the hon. and learned Member opposite would not wish us to confiscate any of the rights of the National Telephone Company.

MR. MOULTON : Leave them alone.

MR. HANBURY : I am very unwilling to leave them alone, and I do not think it would be right to leave them alone. If we are going to extend the company's licence in any single locality it is absolutely necessary that we should not leave them alone. What has been the complaint with regard to this company all through ? In the first place, that it is a monopoly, and, in the second place, that the monopoly was unregulated. By this Bill it ceases to be a monopoly.

MR. MOULTON : It never was a monopoly after a given date.

MR. HANBURY : Under the Bill the company, which could have extended its operations over the whole of the United Kingdom, and could by that mere fact have prevented competition arising anywhere but in the larger boroughs, cannot enter any areas in which they are not now working. All the poorer and weaker boroughs have, therefore, an opportunity of starting a valid and strong system of their own. The hon. and learned Member says we have got no concessions. If we had got no concessions but that alone we should have got some-

thing well worth having. But we have got two more concessions of equal importance. One is that the company should come under control, and the other is that under certain conditions there should be inter-communication. I admit it is a great disadvantage that in one area we should have two competing systems, but we cannot always help it. It happens in Stockholm, where the greatest use is made of the telephone, and it exists to a great extent in Norway and Sweden and Denmark. Here, again, the difficulty has been overcome, and wherever a *bona fide* extension of the licence to the company takes place, and wherever there is a *bona fide* competition—that is to say, where a new company has 500 subscribers to the National Telephone Company's 1,000 subscribers—there must be inter-communication. Then the hon. and learned Member says there have been very great changes introduced since the Second Reading of the Bill. All those matters were dealt with before the Grand Committee. All the new clauses, with the exception of the one dealing with inter-communication, were before the Grand Committee, and it is a singular fact that the Committee were practically unanimous as to the alterations. One portion only was not dealt with by the Grand Committee, and that is the question of inter-communication, but although it was not formally dealt with by the Committee, it was thoroughly well understood that clauses such as have now been introduced would be brought up on the Report stage. The mover of the motion now under consideration spoke as if the National Telephone Company had appropriated to itself all the rich and populous portions of the United Kingdom, and the hon. Gentleman asked how we were going to serve the rural districts. The hon. Member implied that the rural districts and the smaller urban districts were by no means likely to be profitable either to the company or to the Post Office. If the company is not working already in the smaller urban districts, those districts need not fear any competition; they will be absolutely free to start a system of their own without fear of competition from the National Telephone Company. As to the smaller districts, is it the fact that they are not paying districts? The experience of Norway and Sweden shows that they are paying districts to work, and when asked before the Select Com-

mittee of last year where, if he had his choice, he would prefer to start an exchange, Mr. Preece said he would choose the smaller rural districts, and he instanced portions of Anglesey. Only within the last year the municipal system has been started in Guernsey, and there they are beating the record against foreign countries. In the neighbouring Island of Jersey, where the National Telephone Company has been in operation for several years, the number of telephones to the population is about one in 300. Already in Guernsey, after one year's operation, the telephones are as one to eighty of the population, and it is expected that soon they will be as one in fifty. I hope I have shown the House that the very grave charges of undue concession to the National Telephone Company made by the hon. and learned Member for Launceston are not justified by the facts, and I hope I have also proved to the satisfaction of the House that we have got from the National Telephone Company concessions which we could not have got except by negotiation. It would have been sheer confiscation to force them down the throats of the company, and it would have been distinctly contrary to the recommendations of the Committee that we should have tried to do so. I have done my best throughout the negotiations to protect the interests both of the taxpayers and of the company. I cannot forget that the National Telephone Company, with all its faults, has done good work in starting the telephone service. It had had privileges given to it—privileges which, had I been Postmaster-General, I would never have given to it. I felt all through that the Government's hands were tied by the enormous privileges given to the company, but I have refused to be a party to anything in the nature of confiscation. On the whole a Bill has been obtained which is fair to the company and fair to the taxpayer, and a Bill which will give the country a good service, national in the best sense of the word, and not lagging behind the telephone services on the Continent.

MR. J. A. PEASE (Northumberland, Tyneside): I do not think there is a single hon. Member in this House who has advocated any notion of confiscation of the National Telephone Company's interests, but what a great many of us do complain about is the system which

Mr. Hanbury.

the National Telephone Company have put into operation in this country. They have treated the users of telephones with very little courtesy in regard to the terms which they have extorted, and they have made very large profits out of the trading community, and now, owing to the arrangement which the right hon. Gentleman has made with the National Telephone Company, they are to have their licence extended from 1911 to 1925. The right hon. Gentleman has alluded to the concessions, which, he thinks, he has secured to the advantage of the country from the National Telephone Company, and has placed them against the privilege which he has given them of extending their licence. I submit that the system as at present in operation is very unsatisfactory, and even if it is not to be perpetuated, as the hon. Member for Launceston indicated it would be, but is merely to be extended to 1925, we had far better allow things to remain as they are than even to have the National Telephone Company controlled and regulated in the manner in which the right hon. Gentleman proposes. On that ground, and on that ground alone, I shall go into the lobby in support of the proposal which has been made by the hon. Member for Forfar. I should like to point out one or two of the inconveniences which exist in connection with the present system, and those inconveniences seem to me to be increased under the operation of this Bill. If a wool merchant, we will say, wants to speak from his office at Bradford to his office in Leicester, it is necessary for him first of all to ring up the exchange and then ascertain whether, through the exchange to the post office, the trunk line is free, and if the trunk line is free very probably he will find that he cannot get into communication with his office in Leicester because they are already in conversation with somebody else on some other trunk line. Under the present complicated system communication between town and town is most difficult for business purposes, and over and over again I have been obliged, in carrying on business in one part of the country with another, to send long telegrams because of the inconveniences arising from the present system. We want some uniform system of communication throughout the whole country, under the control of the central Government. The existing system

is doing an enormous amount of harm to the trading interests of this country, and I shall, therefore, regard it as a national disaster if the Bill passes. The right hon. Gentleman claimed that he has done away with monopoly; but there has not been altogether a monopoly, because there are some places where the Post Office has entered into keen competition with the National Telephone Company. In the City of Newcastle, which I, to a large extent represent, the Post Office system has been in operation almost from the very commencement, but the National Telephone Company has been gradually undermining the system there. And why? The main reason is that the great business houses in the City of Newcastle find it necessary to have telephonic communication with the various other industrial centres, and in these centres the Post Office system does not exist. I am told on very good authority that if the present system goes on, instead of the Post Office having a monopoly in the City of Newcastle, the National Telephone Company will have a practical monopoly. If this can happen in the City of Newcastle, I am quite sure that in many other large towns the National Telephone Company under the provisions of this Bill will prevent any serious competition from municipal bodies, though I believe that many municipalities will carry on the telephonic system in their districts effectively and economically. The right hon. Gentleman has claimed that he has not introduced a new Bill. I admit that a portion of the Bill is somewhat the same, but two pages have been added to it. I submit that it is a shame that the people who are interested in telephones in this country should be represented by Members who are prepared to vote for a Bill which those who are dependent on the telephones in the country do not thoroughly understand. Over and over again, during the last few days, I have spoken to people with regard to the proposal of the Government, and they have been simply amazed that there is a proposal that the telephone licence should be extended from 1911 to 1925. I believe that if the right hon. Gentleman could see his way to drop this Bill, he would be able to satisfy the country another year with a better measure, and one which would not perpetuate the many evils which I believe will be perpetuated by extending the

licence of the National Telephone Company.

MR. KIMBER (Wandsworth): I wish to join in the appeal to the Secretary to the Treasury to postpone the further consideration of this Bill. I believe that if we pass the measure in the manner he proposes to do now—and it is not the way in which he proposed to pass it when he first brought in the Bill—we shall add another great loss to the telegraphic deficit of this country. Let us consider for a moment the position when the Bill was brought in and the position now. When the Bill was brought in we were told that it was necessary, for two reasons—first, because the National Telephone Company had claimed virtual monopoly; and, secondly, because it was necessary to start an effective competition and to terminate the licence of the National Telephone Company. The right hon. Gentleman asked for two millions of money, which he was to spend on behalf of the State in starting this effective competition. In the Report of the Committee of 1898, it was distinctly stated that if the Government did not deal with the company in this way, they might be in a position in 1911 in which they might be forced to buy the plant of the National Telephone Company at an exaggerated value, because the Government could not, on the spur of the moment, lay down a new plant to start its own system. It was given in evidence, quoted by the Secretary to the Treasury in his Report, that it would take five years to lay down an alternative plant for the purpose of taking up the work in 1911 which the Telephone Company are now doing. The Committee reported as follows:

“Your Committee in thus recommending a Post Office service, assume it will constitute a real and active competition, and that concessions to the company not required by the agreement will cease.”

The real reason why the Government have brought in a Bill which does not support a Post Office service is alleged to be, that many important members of the Government consider it would be increasing the Civil Service to such a large extent as to make it really impossible for the system to be taken over as a Government Department, or as a separate Depart-

ment of the Post Office. Therefore the Bill does not carry out the Report of the Committee. The Bill is based on the Treasury Minute, but, curiously enough, the Treasury Minute itself says that there must be effective competition, and that in any case all licences should terminate in 1911. *All licences.* Why? Because the system must be a national one, uniform throughout the country. When you consider that the telephone is really a “speaking telegraph,” it is obvious that it must be carried on with the same universality of system as the Post Office telegraphs, that is to say, under one hand, in one possession, and by one management. There is no other way of carrying on the telephone system to the advantage of the trading interests of the country but that. The right hon. Gentleman contradicts himself on his plan. Although he says he must not increase the Civil Service, he asks you to give him £2,000,000, which is to be spent by somebody. Is he going to spend that without appointing fresh men? By what Department is that going to be done? Through the Post Office, I imagine. But £2,000,000 cannot be judiciously expended without having some trained hands to look after it. There is at once an extension of the Civil Service. I agree it is a grave objection to these things when they involve a large extension of the Civil Service, but it is inevitable. There are worse evils than that, and one of them is to put back the country by thirty years, as the plan of the Bill as now framed will do. What was the system at the time of the Report? It was worked, not by the Post Office, but by a number of companies. The Post Office had obtained, on its own application and insistence, a declaration of law that the “telephone” was a “telegraph,” and that the Government had a monopoly of the telephone as well as of the telegraph, and it was on that footing they afterwards proceeded. What did they do? They brought into existence a number of companies. It is the Government that fixed the powers and the limits of the jurisdiction of the working of those companies. Inevitably, as all those licences were granted on precisely the same terms, the system and the country demanded that they should amalgamate. They did amalgamate, and without the permission of the Government at all. By amalgamating they succeeded to a certain extent in accommodating the public.

Mr. J. A. Pease.

What are the things of which the right hon. Gentleman accuses the company? Over and over again he said that their charges are not limited by any *maxima* or any *minima*. Why the public should be limited as regards the *minima* I do not know, except it be that the Post Office managed their telephonic business so badly that the company—who had to make a bigger profit than the Government—beat them at the price, the public obviously getting the benefit. Another thing the company are charged with is that it is entitled to refuse service to a customer, that it is not bound to supply telephones at all except as it chooses, and then only on its own conditions as to the facilities being given. Many of us, no doubt, have suffered from that fact. Then, again, it is urged that the company has no way-leaves, that it has no powers to lay its lines underground from customers' houses to the Exchange. But all these faults and deficiencies are congenital in the licence, and created by the Government which granted the licence. The Government had the power to rectify these matters, but did not. It brought into existence a bantling—it ought rather to be called a monster—and, under this Bill, as introduced, the House was asked to give £2,000,000 for the purpose of harrying the company down to a lower price than the Government thought they might have to pay if they bought it now. That was an intelligible policy; I do not say anything about its fairness.

MR. HANBURY: That was never suggested for a single moment.

MR. KIMBER: What was not?

MR. HANBURY: It was never suggested that we should beat down the shares of the company in order to buy them up—never for one moment.

MR. KIMBER: I did not say anything about shares. I will read the Report of the right hon. Gentleman's own Committee:—

“Competition appears to be both expedient and necessary, in order, firstly, to extend and popularise the service, and, next, to avoid a danger which is by no means remote if no alternative system is in operation, that a purchase of the company's undertaking at an inflated price may be forced upon the Government of the day.”

What does he mean by “inflated price”? Turn to a previous paragraph, in which he says, in relation to the amalgamation of these companies, that when they bought up one another, one—that is, of course, the last survivor, the eater up of the rest—had to pay the capital of the other company, and in the course of so doing they paid no less a sum than £1,800,000. The amalgamation value and the purchase value was £3,105,000, and the difference between the one and the other is what some people are pleased to call the “water” value, because it was given to buy up another company, and to enable the buying company to do the service of the public in the only way in which it can be done. Then the right hon. Gentleman goes on to state that it would take five years to replace the plant, and therefore, if they left the company uninterrupted until 1911, they might have to buy them at their own price, and buy up this large and inflated capital, which was a great deal more than the amount for which, with the experience obtained by the advance of time, another system could be laid down. So that it was to prevent the company asking the repayment of this capital, other than the cost price of a new plant, that it was suggested we ought to have competition.

MR. HANBURY: I must deny that. Anybody who was on the Committee knows that that is not what was meant. The hon. Member himself must have seen, when he quoted that passage, that it was impossible to replace the company's plant under five years; that the danger the Committee had before them was, that as it was impossible to replace the company's plant under a period of five years, it might be possible for the company, either by giving a very bad service or by charging very high rates, to disgust the public with the service, and to make them appeal to the Government, saying, “We can no longer go on with the National Telephone Company, you must buy up this service yourselves.” As it would be impossible to replace the plant within five years, it would be quite possible for the company then to demand an exaggerated price from us, and that was the sole meaning of the Report.

MR. KIMBER: I will read the exact words of the Report again:—

“Unless the Government had already an alternative plant available, supplied wholly

by the Post Office or partly by municipal licensees, the purchase of the company's undertaking at an inflated price might thus be imposed upon the Government. The inducements to the company to produce such a result are obvious; and your Committee cannot too strongly recommend that no delay should occur in taking adequate precautions to prevent it. Mr. Preece informed your Committee that it would probably take five years to provide such an alternative plant for the whole country."

Very well, then; the reason given for the competition is, that if no alternative system is in operation, the purchase of the company's undertaking at an inflated price may be forced upon the Government. I think I have made that proposition clear. Whatever the faults of the company were, it was quite intelligible, and, under the circumstances, I am not going to say it was unreasonable, to try and prevent the company getting the whip hand of the Government to enforce an inflated price, if it was an inflated price; and, therefore, it was important to put the public in a position of independence. What was the position as between the Government and the company? The company alleged, and the Government have not denied it, that they paid to the Government £900,000 for the Government share of the profits of the undertaking, and that at the present time they are paying £114,000 a year, a sum which is increasing. The profits of the company amount to 6 per cent. on their capital, which, by a curious coincidence, is equivalent to about £228,000. The Post Office, therefore, derive one-third of all the profits which the company get out of the public. The principle of competition is to be introduced. What is the natural effect of competition? To knock down profits. Are the Government or are they not in their system going to charge the same rate of profit as the company? *Prima facie*, the £114,000 of royalties will be diminished. But whether or not it was possible for the Government at that time to have unified the whole system, to have put the hand of the State upon the company, with an impress which should have made it a State Department, as recommended by the Report, it would not necessarily have made all the employees Civil servants. We have, in India, companies controlled by the Government, but the employees are not Civil servants. But it was possible for the Government to come into the business of the company

Mr. Kimber.

and its plant by the simple process of converting the company's certificates into guarantee certificates with a limited interest of 3 per cent. That would have amply compensated the company. No question would have arisen as to the value, as the shareholders, if they did not like it, could have got their money by selling their certificates, and the Government could have come into the whole of the profits of £228,000 a year, besides the £114,000 they are now receiving. Inasmuch as they would have had to pay 3 per cent. on the certificates, one-half only of the annual profit would be net, but even then they would get half the present dividend of the company, besides the royalties of £114,000 a year, without having paid a single sovereign for it. It is true they would have given a guarantee, but the fact that there would be no liability against the guarantee is shown by the way in which the business has been taken up, and by the fact that the Government has sufficient confidence to come and ask you to sanction another £2,000,000 being put into the business. If that course had been adopted, the Government would have had all the power in their own hands; they could have charged any rates they liked so as to be sure of a profit; whereas now they are going into what they call "real and effective" competition. Will they make a profit? Will they tell the House that on this £2,000,000 they will make a profit? Will they not reduce the £114,000 they are now getting? Financially for the State this is a most disastrous transaction; it is one by which we are almost bound to lose—at all events as compared with what the Government might have done, and what it might now do. From the point of view of the country at large, let me ask—and this is even more important than the question of the loss to the Government—where are the public in this competition? What sort of competition is that between two persons or two bodies, one of which has the power of putting a rope around the neck of the other? Where the Government will have the power to fix the rates and charges and make the company conform to those rates, I should like to know who will win? If the rates are to be cut down so as to suit the public, the company must lose profits, and the Government must lose royalties. Then look at the inconvenience. We will have one

system in London, competitive, which is to terminate in 1911; another system in the provinces, competitive between this company and new companies or municipal corporations. Instead of "uniformity," "diversity" is the best term by which to describe such a system as that. How are we to get that which the trade and commerce of this country demands—viz., universal communication between one part and every other part? There must be portions of the country which will not pay by themselves, and it is an advantage of having a national system that those poor places can be served, and if they do not yield a profit the other parts will

make up for them. I venture to say that this scheme is financially disastrous to the nation, and to the interests of the country as a whole as regards its trade and commerce it will also be detrimental, and will put us back by whatever is the term of the new licence which it is proposed to grant, thus hampering and hindering the trade and commerce of the nation in its competition with the rest of the commercial countries of Europe.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 174; Noes, 41. (Division List, No. 294.)

AYES.

Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold, Alfred
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Waltham)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Barry, Rt. Hon. A. H. S. (Hunts.)
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bigwood, James
Billson, Alfred
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, A. Montagu
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Butcher, John George
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
Cawley, Frederick
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birmingham)
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worcester)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Charles E. H. Athole
Cornwallis, F. Stanley W.
Cox, Irwin E. Bainbridge
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Curzon, Viscount
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Denny, Colonel
Donkin, Richard Sim
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, William Theodore
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir W. Hart
Elliot, Hon. A. R. Douglas
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manchester)

Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir R. Penrose
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H. (City of London)
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Giles, Charles Tyrell
Gilliat, John Saunders
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. John
Goldsworthy, Major General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (S. Gloucestershire)
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hamond, Sir Chas. (Newcastle)
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. R. Wm.
Hatch, Ernest Fred. Geo.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale
Hazzell, Walter
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Alexander
Hermion-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
Holden, Sir Angus
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howell, William Tudor
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kemp, George
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir. J. H.
Kenyon, James
Kewick, William
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Cornwall)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorkshire)
Lea, Sir T. (Londonderry)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leng, Sir John
Lewis, John Herbert
Llewellyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swansea)
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverpool)
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller

Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdonald, John Cumming
Maddison, Fred.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milton, Viscount
Monk, Charles James
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Devonport)
Mount, William George
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Oldroyd, Mark
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, R. (Lancashire, Newton)
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Priestley, Sir W. Overend (Edinburgh)
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rankin, Sir James
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Roys, Clement Molyneux
Russell, Gen. F. S. (Cheltenham)
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. T. Myles
Schwann, Charles E.
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, James Parker (Lancashire)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Stanley, Lord (Lancashire)
Steadman, William Charles
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)

Thornton, Percy M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Valentia, Viscount
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)

Williams, J. Powell. (Birm.)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh., N.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Woodhouse, Sir J. I. (Huddersf'd)
Wyndham, George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.

Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
Yoxall, James Henry
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Ambrose, Robert
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Channing, Francis Allston
Crilly, Daniel
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Duckworth, James
Dunn, Sir William
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Flynn, James Christopher

Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Joicey, Sir James
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Lubbock, Rt. Hon. Sir John
Macaleese, Daniel
MacDonnell, Dr. MA. (Queen's C.)
M'Crae, George
Moulton, John Fletcher
O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare

Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, Robert John
Spicer, Albert
Stevenson, Francis S.
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Wallace, Robert
Wedderburn, Sir William
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Woods, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Captain Sinclair and Mr.
Charles M'Arthur.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill considered :—

MR. BUCHANAN: I beg to move the Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for Wandsworth, to leave out Clause 1. When the House was in Committee the other day I pointed out that we shall add under this clause a sum of not less than two millions to the national debt. We are doing this day after day, and week after week. We added nearly two millions for the Niger Company, four millions for the naval works, and three millions for military works. Now we are adding two millions for the extension of the telephone system, or in all eleven millions added to the permanent debt of the country in one session by the present Government.

MR. HANBURY: National debt!

MR. BUCHANAN: The right hon. Gentleman is trying to correct me. It is not technically national debt, but it is to be paid off with terminable annuities of twenty or thirty years' duration. That is to safeguard this amount of debt from the temptation of future Chancellors of the Exchequer. But I am perfectly certain the Secretary to the Treasury is the last man to deny that what we are doing under this Bill is to add two millions to the national indebtedness of the country. The Government during the present session has added eleven millions to the national indebtedness; and during the

four years the Government have been in office it has already added twelve to fourteen millions of money to the national indebtedness under this peculiar method of procedure, which not only complicates our national finances, but prevents us from seeing what the national indebtedness really is, and whether it is increasing or decreasing. I am sorry the hon. Member for King's Lynn is not in his place, for he and the right hon. the Secretary to the Treasury, in his days of more freedom and less responsibility, were earnest critics of this particular style of finance. The system is a bad one. It is one of comparatively modern introduction, and was only begun on a large scale in 1888 or 1889. It has grown with gigantic strides during the last few years, but in no session equal to the present. Is the taxpayer going to get value for his money under Clause 1? What is the purpose for which this two millions is asked? There is nothing stated in the clause as to the purpose for which the money is wanted. Of course, the title of the Bill says that it is to improve the telephonic communication, but there is nothing to show that this money is to be spent in improving the telephonic communication. As I read this clause, the money asked for may be spent for any of the purposes of the Telegraph Acts, and I think that even at this late period it would be wise to introduce limiting words. In order to arrive at the purpose for which the money is to be spent, we have to look to the speeches of the Secretary of the Treasury. He

told us when the Bill was first introduced that he proposed to ask for two millions to develop telephonic communication on the part of the Post Office, and he went on to state that the first place where the operations were to be extended was to be London itself, and the small municipalities. I would like to ask why London, this great Metropolis, the richest city in the world, and the one best able, if you are going to introduce a municipal telephonic system, to put it in operation—why is London to have a first charge on this money? That question even seems to have suggested itself to the right hon. Gentleman; for he said that in this large area of London the Post Office is determined to compete at once with the National Telephone Company. That is to say that the first charge upon this money, contributed by the taxpayers of the whole country, is to enable the Post Office to enter into active competition in the area of London—which is much the richest community in the world, the best able to take care of itself, and the best able to institute a system of municipal telephones—with the National Telephone Company. We know that the views of the right hon. Gentleman have altered somewhat during the progress of the Bill. If London is to have the first charge on these two millions I do not think there would be much left for the rest of the community. The right hon. Gentleman stated that the balance over would be given for the development of the system in the smaller municipalities. “There are hills beyond Pentland, and lands beyond Forth,” and where do the country districts and the small towns come in? Where is to be the benefit to them when the rich metropolis of the country has the first charge on the money to be borrowed from the Exchequer? The little towns in England and Scotland of two or three thousand inhabitants are to be told that they are to establish municipal telephones out of their municipal rates. I say that is a grossly unfair way in which to deal with public money. More than that, it is contrary to the statements made by the right hon. Gentleman in March, and in the beginning of June, when the one point he laid stress upon was that the object of the Government was that they wanted to establish a real national telephonic system throughout the length and breadth of the country. Now, when we come to

examine the *modus operandi*, we find that they are going to spend the whole of the money in establishing effective competition with the National Company in the district of London. That is exceedingly unfair to the general taxpayer. Moreover, the right hon. Gentleman himself says that the two millions will not be enough for that purpose, and he looks forward to the time when he must come down to the House for further money. What will be the result of the expenditure of this money in the future? First of all, we are going to spend two millions in good hard cash on a scheme of improvement of the telephonic communication, which, at best, will be temporary. It cannot be a final settlement. Then the hon. Gentleman or his successor will find that two millions is not enough, and will have to come to the House for more money for the same purpose. What will be the effect when he or his successor has to face the question which is being shirked now—that is of buying up the National Company and the other companies which are to be licensed under this Bill? If you establish effective competition in London, that will stimulate the National Company to compete with the Post Office, and by so doing the value of the National Company's property, for buying up purposes, will naturally and necessarily be increased. You are not only wasting money in taking the whole telephone system under the control of the Post Office, but actually increasing the value of the property which we shall have eventually to buy up. On all these grounds I oppose this clause, and I beg to move that it be deleted.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 5, to leave out Clause 1.”—
(*Mr. Buchanan.*)

Question proposed, “That the words ‘The Treasury may’ stand part of the Bill.”

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR: I want from the Secretary to the Treasury a little further information as to what he is going to do with these two millions. The right hon. Gentleman is directly infringing all the canons he has previously laid down. In the first place, there is to be a municipal system, but it is not to be a municipal system for London. In the next place the system is not to add to the wages

or staff of the Post Office; but the system under this clause must inevitably add to the wages and the number of the employees of the Post Office. Then, again, whatever may be the result of this proposal to set up effective competition in London, I contend that, on the face of it, it is a waste of somebody's money. My conviction is, that any private enterprise in an active competition with a Government Department will inevitably get the best of it. It has the stimulus or motive of responsibility to its shareholders, to embark in an energetic and vigorous policy, which is wanting in the Post Office. But that only emphasises what I have said before, that there will be a ruinous waste of money. Then, how is this to affect the rural districts? What proportion of this money is the right hon. Gentleman going to devote to the development of the rural districts, which have not yet been reached by the telephones? It is greatly to be deplored that the Government have adopted a policy which cannot but increase the centralising tendencies of the great towns.

SIR J. T. WOODHOUSE (Huddersfield): I protest against the attitude displayed by certain hon. Members in regard to this Bill. If there were any men who came before the Select Committee of the House of Commons last session, and pleaded for that competition which this Bill proposes to set up, it was the representatives from Glasgow and Edinburgh. The hon. Baronet who represents Bridgeton, who has taken the greatest interest in the development of the telephonic system, and who knows more about it than almost anybody else, cordially supports the Bill which the Government has introduced. I do venture to say that the obstruction towards the Bill—"No, no!"—yes; this obstruction is not becoming towards those who are endeavouring to do their duty, and to those who came from Scotland and demanded that this competition should be set up, and themselves have promoted a private Bill to obtain the facilities which this Bill proposes to give them. I cannot understand the opposition which my hon. friends have displayed towards this Bill. I fail to see that there is any rational principle in the speech of my hon. and gallant friend who has just sat down. He says

Captain Sinclair.

that the proposal of the right hon. Gentleman is to spend £2,000,000 primarily on the City of London. He is not strictly correct. In the first place, the telephonic area of London comprises much more than the City of London. It includes a population of six millions of people, and extends very much beyond the bounds of the City of London; and the Government are giving effect to what was practically the recommendation of the Select Committee—that the telephonic area of London should be taken up by the Government. Well, I think that it is a fair and rational demand that the Government should ask for two millions, a great part of which I have no doubt will be spent in setting up that effective competition which we all desire. That is the pivot on which the Bill turns, and it was the basis of the recommendations of the Select Committee. A proposal to reject the unanimous recommendation of the Grand Committee upstairs is trifling with the time of the House, and not yielding to the demands of the witnesses who presented themselves from Scotland.

SIR JOHN LUBBOCK (London University): This Bill contains two main proposals—the first, that in the Metropolitan area, the most important of all, the State should supply a telephone service; and the second, that elsewhere the local authorities should be encouraged to do so. The first proposal is in direct opposition to the opinion of our greatest thinkers. For instance, John Stuart Mill said:

"There is a fundamental distinction between controlling the business of Government and actually doing it. The same person or body may be able to control everything, but cannot possibly do everything; and in many cases its control over everything will be more perfect the less it personally attempts to do."

I may also quote the high authority of Cobden, who observed that:

"I find that you can never make the conductors of these establishments understand that the capital they have to deal with is really money. It costs them nothing, and, whether they make a profit or a loss, they never find their way into the *Gazette*. Therefore, to them it is a myth—it is a reality only to the taxpayers."

Bismarck, in 1893, said:

"My fear and anxiety for the future is, that the national consciousness may be stifled in the coils of the boa constrictor bureaucracy, which

has made rapid progress during the last few years."

Herbert Spencer, we know, is strongly of the same opinion. I do not know whether my right hon. friend the Member for the University of Dublin proposes to speak on this Bill, but I might refer also to his interesting works. It may be said that these are merely theoretical opinions. They are, however, fully borne out by experience. Take the results of the system of State railways in Australia. In 1896, the last year for which I have seen the figures, South Australia lost £65,000; New South Wales, £109,000; Queensland, £252,000; and Victoria, £583,000. The total amount lost by Victoria mounts up to no less than £7,000,000. Take, again, a case still more similar to the present—that of the telegraphs. The general impression seems to be that the State is making a large profit by the telegraphs. On the contrary, we have lost £8,000,000, and are losing more and more every year. It is sometimes said that this is because the State gave too much for the telegraphs. But that is not so. If the whole system had been presented to the State for nothing, there would still be a loss of £300,000 a year on the working. My right hon. friend the Secretary to the Treasury has himself spoken most strongly against his own Bill. He has told us that there are "no practical or technical advantages in State management." In reply to a deputation a short time ago he said:

"He hardly thought the deputation had given full weight to the serious difficulties in the way of nationalisation. He doubted whether it was expedient, unless it were essentially a national service, to increase the amount of work done by the State generally. The Post Office was being overburdened with works in every direction, and he did not think that it was capable of taking this enormous additional burden. If the telephone service was cast upon the Post Office, it would be to the detriment of both the postal and telegraph services. Then, again, it would increase enormously the Government staff. He need only appeal to the Members of Parliament present to say whether they would like to have the weekly appeals for increase of wages from those State servants still further extended."

And yet he proposes, as regards the Metropolitan area, to take the very course which he has himself strongly denounced. I now come to the second part of the Bill—that which proposes to invite municipalities to undertake the work. The

Chambers of Commerce have surely strong ground of complaint. The Government promised them at the beginning of the session an inquiry into the whole subject. They thought it so important that they proposed, not merely a Committee of this House, but a joint Committee of the two Houses. We do not complain of them for not having kept their promise, but because, while they have not spared an hour to nominate the Committee, that they have devoted hours to this Bill, which prejudices the whole question. So strongly do the Chambers of Commerce feel on the subject, that resolutions condemning the Bill have been passed by the Chambers of Commerce of London, Liverpool, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Plymouth, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Belfast, Dublin, and more than twenty others—in fact, by practically all the great Chambers of Commerce. I may quote, for instance, the unanimous resolution of the London Chamber:

"That it is undesirable that the Postmaster-General should licence the councils or county boroughs to provide systems of public telephonic communication, and that, pending the Report of the Joint Committee about to be appointed by the two Houses on municipal trading, the *Telegraphs (Telephonic Communication, &c.) Bill* should be postponed."

Nor is it only the Chambers of Commerce. The Society of Arts have urged the Government to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the subject of municipal trading, and added:

"They venture to submit that, until such Royal Commission has investigated the subject and reported thereon, no further powers for trading purposes ought to be granted to such bodies."

Lastly, the Committee of the Society of Electrical Engineers have resolved:

"That in the opinion of this Committee it is undesirable, from the point of view of the progress of electrical engineering, for the purely local telephone industry throughout the country to be held as a monopoly; or that legislation on the future of telephony in the United Kingdom should discourage the undertaking of exchange systems within telephone areas by independent enterprise."

It is astonishing to me that the Government should force on this Bill against the protests of the Chambers of Commerce, the Society of Arts, and the Society of Electrical Engineers. No doubt, the

Municipal Corporations Association is in favour of it. They wish to establish a new monopoly, and have resolved :

"That this Association affirms the principle that where local authorities have, with the sanction of Parliament, established, or are in course of establishing, undertakings for public benefit, and have not failed in their duties, it is not right or expedient that powers should be granted to companies to compete with them."

A monopoly by a municipality is still a monopoly. The debts of our municipalities are rapidly increasing. They are now some £250,000,000, and, at the present rate, will in twenty years be as large as the National Debt. The rate itself is increasing. This year, in one year alone, you have added two new fields for municipal enterprise. The building societies have amongst them a capital of £50,000,000. The Government, not satisfied with this, wish municipalities to enter into this business. If they do so seriously, it means another £100,000,000. In America £50,000,000 is already invested in electricity. If our municipalities are to absorb this field of enterprise, it will mean in a few years another speculation of £100,000,000. Our municipalities will become gigantic speculations, run by amateurs, at the expense of the ratepayers. This is really a struggle between those who wish the municipalities to have gigantic monopolies and those who are fighting for free trade and free competition. Moreover, since this Bill was introduced, the policy of the Government has altered. At first, they proposed to do away with companies after 1911. Now they wisely propose to continue them. That seems to me the true policy. It is the only way to secure competition. But do you suppose that investors will be so foolish as to compete with municipalities? Lastly, I must say one word as regards the effect this Bill will have on the progress of applied science. Already the action of municipalities has seriously checked the development of electrical science in this country. Mr. Sellon has recently told us, at the Society of Arts, that

"He had had exceptional opportunities of seeing and hearing what was going on in America and Germany, and in Switzerland, and he believed it was beyond dispute that in those countries electrical science was far more highly developed in the interests of the public than in this country; and, secondly, that in those countries it had not been handled chiefly by municipalities"

Sir John Lubbock.

Sir, I support this Amendment, because I believe this Bill will inflict serious injury on the manufacturing interests of the country, because it will check the progress of applied science, increase the burden of rates, add enormously to local debts, and last, not least, impair and weaken our municipal institutions.

MR. HANBURY said his right hon. friend had only to look at the work of the postal service of this country to find at once a reply to his argument that the State could not undertake work of this kind at a profit.

SIR JOHN LUBBOCK : Where there is no competition it is easy to make a profit.

MR. HANBURY said he would take the case where there was competition. The Post Office had telephone exchanges in Cardiff and Newcastle, and, badly as the system had been worked, they yielded a considerable profit. He anticipated that when the present restrictions were removed, the profits which the Department would make would be considerably greater. In London there was no alternative to the State taking over the telephones. The telephone area extended far beyond that of the London County Council, and therefore the only body that could grant underground way-leaves, which were necessary to an efficient service, was the Post Office itself. It was intended that one-half of the sum of two millions provided by the Bill should be spent in providing a thoroughly efficient service in the metropolis, and that the remainder of the money should be used to extend the telephone service in those districts where the population was not sufficient to maintain a service of its own. In those areas where the Post Office entered into competition with the National Telephone Company there would be no extension of the company's licence, and therefore in these districts this must be regarded as a final settlement.

SIR J. JOICEY (Durham, Chester-le-Street), said the right hon. Gentleman had said that the Post Office in Newcastle, considering the disabilities under which it laboured, had done remarkably well. The only disability that he (Sir J. Joicey) knew it laboured under was that it was not, according to the Treasury Minute,

given sufficient money in order to compete with a company like the National Company. But, so far as he had been able to learn, he did not think the Newcastle Post Office suffered particularly under that disability, because he was under the impression that it had always had sufficient money to compete with the National Telephone Company, so far as it was desirable to do so. He was bound to say that he thought the National Telephone Company gave as good a service as the Post Office, and he believed that, with equal facilities, the National Telephone Company would beat the Post Office on its own ground. He was one of those who believed that the rich part of the country, even so far as telephone districts were concerned, should be made to assist the poor parts of the country, as in the case of the postal service. The right hon. Gentleman admitted, if he understood his speech aright, that he was going to spend the bulk of the two millions in London. He thought that was monstrous, and he could not see why the local authorities of London should be deprived of a power which was to be possessed by every municipality throughout the country; but, instead of £2,000,000, he should not object to ten, twelve, or even fifteen millions being spent for the purchase of all the telephone systems in the country. He was certain that when the country came to understand the Bill, the electors would recognise that there ought to be some scheme which would have brought the whole country into telephonic communication. Could the right hon. Gentleman give a single instance, where there had been competition with the Post Office by the National Telephone Company, where the Post Office had not been beaten? He (the speaker) did not know a single case. From what he knew of the telephone company, he was certain they would not give up the battle without a good struggle. The Post Office ran away from competition wherever there had been competition. The policy of the Post Office hitherto had been to prevent competition, and to induce the National Telephone Company to buy up other companies. He was surprised at this sudden change of policy on the part of the Post Office. He could not think that the policy now put forward by the Government was the policy of those who understood the question best. In

spending this money in London, the Government were doing a very great injustice to other parts of the country.

MR. PARKER SMITH (Lanarkshire, Partick): said he could not assent to the proposal that two millions of money should be given to London; it would have been better if the telephone system throughout the country had been taken over by the Government. There were a great many places in Scotland which, while not boroughs, were not thinly populated, and where the use of the telephone was very much wanted. He understood the right hon. Gentleman himself believed that in those places it would be very lucrative to start the telephone; but this Bill did not give any facilities to places which were not of an urban character. The County Council of Lanark, for instance, was greatly interested in this point, and had raised it in a memorial which no doubt many hon. Members had received. Was it the fact that any district that wanted to have facilities for introducing telephones was obliged to form itself into an urban district, and that county councils were not to be allowed to use their credit for introducing telephones into the parts of the country where they were needed?

*MR. CAWLEY (Lancashire, Prestwich): We know that Glasgow were prepared to give a service for five guineas to each subscriber, and that that sum included the Government royalty and the sinking fund. If Glasgow could do that, why not London? The question is, Why should London pay £15 for the telephone, when it could be obtained for five or six guineas? The right hon. Gentleman the Member for London University has spoken several times about the London Chamber of Commerce. I have no doubt that most members of the London Chamber of Commerce have a very cheap telephone, because they are in a large way of business, and are telephoning every day and all day. They get an enormous benefit. But we want to see the smaller people have the advantage of the telephone if they want it, and it is not fair for these people who can afford to pay £15 to say that these other people who cannot afford to pay so much shall not have it. In Guernsey they have a telephone service for thirty shillings, with one penny per call. Why should not the

smaller people of London have a similar benefit to that? There is no sort of reason, except that the big people in London get a very cheap telephone, and do not want their poorer neighbours to have it. This Bill is going to give the smaller people the opportunity, and I cannot see that any arguments have been urged against these £2,000,000 being granted for the purpose of establishing this system. I feel certain it would pay extremely well, and that the Government will not only be able to get the same royalty as they get from the National Telephone Company, but provide the interest on the sinking fund as well.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): There may be a good deal of argument against this Bill, but I, for my part, am in favour of it as it stands. Supposing the Bill passes, I cannot see any reason for cutting out this clause. One hon. Member suggested that the clause was bad, because it was limited to London. He said he should be glad to support a clause which gave £15,000,000 in order to have a general service all over the country. That may be good; I should be glad to see a general system; but we know perfectly well that if an Amendment were moved to substitute £15,000,000 for the £2,000,000 in the Bill, it would

not pass the House. We therefore have to take the Bill as it stands. The system is to be first applied to London. As a general rule, I think that moneys ought to be applied to the constituencies of those who are not London members just as much as to London constituencies; but, after all, London is the commercial centre of the whole country. We have got an exceptionally bad telephone system in London, and it is only reasonable that we should test this arrangement of the Government by trying it in London. I believe the thing will pay the Government exceedingly well, and at a lower price than Londoners have at present to pay. The reason is, that the Telephone Company have not underground way leaves. The Government will have those underground way-leaves, so that the service will be better, and, we may fairly anticipate, cheaper. The Financial Secretary is going strongly in the matter; let him fairly test it in London, and, as an eminent South African statesman is said recently to have telegraphed to President Kruger, *festina lente*.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 208; Noes, 32. (Division List, No. 295).

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold, Alfred
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Augustine
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, A. Montagu
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Butcher, John George
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Sir Chas. (Glasgow)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carlile, William Walter

Carmichael, Sir T. D. Gibson-
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cawley, Frederick
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. E. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Curzon, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Denny, Colonel
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Donkin, Richard Sim
Doogan, P. C.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, William Theodore

Duckworth, James
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Elliot, Hon. H. Ralph Douglas
Ellis, John Edward
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manch'r)
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lon.)
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gilliat, John Saunders
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. George's)
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred

Mr. Cawley.

Graham, Henry Robert
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Hamond, Sir C. (Newcastle)
 Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert Wm.
 Hazell, Walter
 Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
 Helder, Augustus
 Henderson, Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Holden, Sir Angus
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Jackson, Rt. Hon. W. Lawies
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Kemp, George
 Kennaway, Rt Hon Sir John H
 Keswick, William
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning-(Corn)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
 Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Leng, Sir John
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn-(Swans.)
 Lloyd-George, David
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Liverpool)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming

M'Calmont, H. L. B. (Camsb.)
 M'Crae, George
 Maddison, Fred.
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
 Milton, Viscount
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William George
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
 Percy, Earl
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pilkington, R. (Lancs, Newton)
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Pollock, Harry Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Priestley, Sir W. O. (Edinburgh)
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Rankin, Sir James
 Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Roysds, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, Gen. F. S. (Cheltenham)
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Schwann, Charles E.

Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Stanley, E. J. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strauss, Arthur
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Uni.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E.
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Williams, J. Powell. (Birmg.)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh, N.)
 Woodhouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Yerburch, Robert Armstrong
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)
 Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Crilly, Daniel
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Dunn, Sir William
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Evans, Sir Francis H. (South'on)
 Hedderwick, Thomas Chas. H.
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Kimber, Henry

Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Lubbock, Rt. Hon. Sir John
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 Moiloy, Bernard Charles
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John

Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
 Smith, James Parker (Lanarks)
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Buchanan and Sir
 James Joicey.

Another Amendment made.

MR. KIMBER: I rise to move the rejection of Clause 2, which brings into competition the local municipalities throughout the country. I move the rejection of the clause on several grounds. In the first place, because of the increasing tendency to give trading powers to municipalities; in the next place, because it prevents that uniformity of system which is essential in order that the country may get the full benefit, commercially and

industrially, of the telephone; and lastly, because it prevents universal intercommunication between all users of the telephone. In some towns we shall have municipalities competing with a licence to which the local authority in question has assented, and on condition that the rates to be charged by both are the same. It is a misnomer to call that "real and effective" competition. It is not a competition, at all events, for the benefit of the user or the public, because the user does not get the benefit of the

universality or uniformity of the system; he only gets it over an area which must be restricted by the fact that there is another competitor in the field. The question of municipal trading is a very much larger one. It is the testimony of public bodies, scientific societies, and private employers of labour, that the same amount of work is not got out of the employees of municipalities as is obtained from the employees of private traders and manufacturers. But the chief objection is, that the scheme prevents inter-communication. We have scarcely got used to the idea that it is possible to telephone out of London. Why are we not allowed the same facilities for communicating telephonically with our friends at a distance as we have by telegraph? We are to be subscribers either of the company or of the Post Office—the one or the other; we are not to have inter-communication, although the Post Office admit that they have the power of putting these wayleaves underground, the want of which power they say is an hindrance to the company. As a matter of fact, between one exchange and another in London and between the exchanges and the Post Office the Post Office does provide the underground communication. I want to know why the same facility has not been afforded this company—

*MR. SPEAKER: I do not quite see what the question of Post Office wayleaves and the telephone company has to do with Clause 2, which only relates to the fund out of which public authorities have to pay the expenses of carrying out the Act.

MR. KIMBER: It has this to do: that this relates to the provinces; it establishes a system of so-called competition there; and the question of wayleaves which has been so important in London is also quite as important in the provinces, and I wish to point out that while they have been in London by their own wilful—

*MR. SPEAKER: That is quite too remote from this clause. If the hon. Member desires that the Government should make some arrangement as to wayleaves between themselves and the telephone company that possibly may be raised on the third clause; it certainly cannot be on the second.

Mr. Kimber.

MR. KIMBER: As regards the provincial towns, I imagine I can argue what is being done or about to be done. Many provincial towns have applied to the Postmaster-General in these terms. They wish to have a company in their locality to whom they should give wayleaves. In that matter the municipalities have the same power in their respective areas as the Post Office have in London. The Government have the power over the whole of the country, and could give these facilities to any company they chose to license. It cannot, therefore, be said that they must employ the local authorities for the purpose of having the provincial towns telephoned. Consequently you are not obliged to give these trading rights to municipal corporations on that ground. The want of uniformity, the want of inter-communication between provincial towns, and the want of facilities for immediate inter-communication make the system one, not of uniformity, but of heterogeneous diversity, and that is my ground for moving the rejection of the clause.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 13, to leave out Clause 2.”
—(*Mr. Kimber.*)

Question proposed, “That the word ‘where’ stand part of the Bill.”

SIR J. JOICEY: I am bound to say that I have a great objection to any facilities being given to municipalities to take over the National Telephone Company's, or to develop any other system. Hitherto our municipalities have been able to borrow money very cheaply indeed, the reason being that they have simply used the money for carrying out the ordinary sanitary and other necessities of their own areas. Doubtless some have gone beyond that—they have taken over gas and water companies; but there is, as a general rule, very great reluctance to take over anything which has not been properly tested or tried. Municipalities want to be assured that they are going to make a certain profit before they will take over anything, but who can tell whether they will be able to make a profit out of a telephone system in their own area? I defy any estimate to be made which can be relied upon, and I look forward with some degree of anxiety if this House

sanctions a Bill which will enable municipalities and urban district authorities to use public money to carry out schemes of this kind, which are only required for a small section of people within each particular area. If this House gives power to municipalities to go into wild cat schemes—because many of these telephone developments have proved to be wild cat schemes—then, of course, the public will be rather chary in advancing money even on the rates, and the result will be that the whole community will be penalised by having to pay a larger interest for money required to carry out necessary improvement. That is one objection. Another objection is the disadvantage of having two or more systems in one area, because if a person wishes to have general telephone communication he must subscribe to all of them. I am speaking from experience in this matter in Newcastle. I do not know whether the Post Office has made any arrangements with the Telephone Company to meet such cases, and I should be glad if the right. hon. Gentleman would inform us on the matter. Again, the large number of municipal employees in small areas will have far more influence in using their votes for their own advantage than Government employees. On these grounds I will support my hon. friend who moved the rejection of the clause, which I think is most undesirable.

Question put and agreed to.

MR. PARKER SMITH: I beg to move to insert after "where" the words "county council or," with a view to giving the same power to county councils as to borough councils. The reason I move this Amendment is because I have had strong representations on the matter from Lanarkshire, where there are considerable districts not included in borough areas. In many of these districts the telephone is wanted, and it could be introduced if the county councils were given the same power as the urban authorities. There are many districts in England in the neighbourhood of cities which cannot be covered by a mere extension of the licence granted to the borough authorities, and where it would be more convenient if they had a telephone extension of their own. The county councils would not exercise that power unreasonably. I would like to ask the right hon. Gen-

tleman whether he contemplates the establishment by the Government of telephones in populous districts, and, if not, what authority is to have that power. Is it to be left to a company, and is there to be local or municipal competition?

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 13, after the word 'Where,' to insert the words 'a county council or.'"—
(*Mr. Parker Smith.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. HANBURY: For many reasons it would be impossible to give licences to county councils. It is admitted that, generally speaking, if they had the power they would not exercise it. Only one county council has made an application of the sort, and it simply applied to be included in the Bill. The objection to giving licenses to populous districts not police boroughs is that they have not got the way leaves in their hands. There are, however, populous places in Scotland which are in the peculiar position of owning their own way leaves, and I think they would have some prior claim on the Post Office.

SIR J. JOICEY: There are also very many populous districts in the county I represent, and it would be a great advantage to them to have a telephone service; and they would be very glad indeed if the Post Office would take the matter into its hands.

MR. PARKER SMITH: After the expression of opinion which the right hon. Gentleman has given, I beg to withdraw my Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

***MR. FAITHFULL BEGG:** The Amendment which I now move is one which I hope will receive the favourable consideration of my right hon. friend. It is to leave out from "granted" to the end of the clause, and to insert "Provided always that no part of the area be outside the borough or urban district." My reason for moving is in the interests of the local authorities themselves. When the House is asked to grant power to local authorities to undertake services such as gas,

water, or electricity, it is always most careful to insert various restrictions. For instance, power is rarely given to any local authority to extend beyond its own area, and in cases where a local authority desires to supply in any area it has to acquire existing undertakings. We are, however, now asked to sanction an entirely new experiment. We are called upon to grant local authorities power to institute a service in competition with an existing service and in areas outside their own areas. It seems to me that may be an exceedingly dangerous power to grant, especially as we do not know very much about the conditions of the competition. There is no limit as far as I understand the clause to the distance over which a licence may extend. I have no doubt my right hon. friend has thought out this matter carefully, and I hope he will be able to remove the difficulty.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 24, to leave out from the word 'granted,' to the end of Clause 2, and to insert the words 'Provided always that no part of that area be outside the borough or urban district.'"—(*Mr. Faithfull Begg.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out, to the word 'be,' in line 25, stand part of the Bill."

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: This Amendment, coming from a representative of Glasgow, is certainly one of the most absurd that can be conceived. What about the Glasgow waterworks, and the Glasgow tramways, and the Glasgow sewerage works? All these are not confined to the city, and the idea of restricting the telephone service to a city area would, in very many cases, so far from being an improvement, render the Bill absolutely unworkable.

MR. PROVAND: The object of this Amendment is to destroy the Bill, because if it is carried the Bill will be almost worthless. The telephone area is always larger than the municipal area. The municipal area of Glasgow contains 720,000 inhabitants, but the telephone area has nearly a million inhabitants, and all the outlying districts have joined Glasgow in its application to the Post Office for a licence in order to have the advantage of a Glasgow telephone exchange. If this Amendment were carried there would have to be six or seven dif-

ferent telephone exchanges in and around Glasgow. I hope the Government will not accept the Amendment.

Question put, and agreed to.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM-MURRAY, Buteshire): The object of this Amendment is to provide a Scotch rate instead of the English rate in Clause 1. The hon. Member for Edinburgh has kindly called my attention to the fact that "police or borough general assessment rate" would not exactly fit the case of Edinburgh. So far as rating is concerned the great majority of the Scotch boroughs are under the general Act of 1892, and are covered by the Burgh General Assessment. Then, so far as the police rate is concerned, that covers Glasgow and also practically Dundee, because Dundee, although it has a local Act, has incorporated several sections of the Act of 1862. There remain Edinburgh and Aberdeen. Edinburgh has a peculiar phraseology of its own, and both it and Aberdeen differ from the other boroughs, because, instead of having separate rates, they have a composite rate with various branches, some paid by the occupier, some by the owner, and others jointly by the occupier and owner. This Amendment will bring in Edinburgh and Aberdeen, and now we have done with the boroughs of Scotland.

Amendment proposed—

"Clause 2, page 2, line 6, after 'rate,' to insert the words 'or the district fund and general district rate.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Question, "That those words be there inserted," put and agreed to.

Other Amendments made.

MR. MOULTON: The Amendment which I wish to move, is to compel the telephone company to deal fairly with the public, and not to deal with one person upon a different basis to another. They should not be allowed to enjoy any benefit under this Bill unless they agree to treat everyone alike. It is manifestly unfair that they should give one person a service over their lines for a subscription, and refuse it to another unless they are allowed to put up a pole on his house. At a time that the company is going to obtain a prolongation of its licence, I submit we are entitled to say that it shall not have it unless it agrees to give no

Mr. Faithfull Begg.

undue preference. If the clause is passed in its present form, it will amount to a statutory authority to the company to give such undue preference, except in those portions of an area in which they had renounced it, and I submit that the company should only have the advantage of this Bill if they agree once and for all to abandon this obnoxious system, which places the public at the mercy of the company, and obliges them to accept just what terms the company chooses to impose.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 23, to leave out the words 'within the area, or part thereof, specified in the new licence.'—(*Mr. Moulton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'within the area' stand part of the Bill."

MR. HANBURY: The power to which exception is taken is one which the National Telephone Company possess under their original licence, and, though it is not one which I wish to defend, it is a privilege which the House has no right to take away, except for good reason shown. Now, in this case, we are not extending the licence to the company generally, we are only extending it in particular areas, and this Bill simply provides that in those particular areas this right of undue preference shall be taken away from the company as a condition of getting their licence extended. The fair thing to the company is to say that in those places where their licence is extended they shall renounce this privilege.

SIR J. JOICEY thought something in the nature of the Amendment was necessary for the prevention of undue preference.

Question put, and agreed to.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I beg to move that the further consideration of this Bill be postponed.

MR. PROVAND: Can the right hon. Gentleman say when it will be put down on the Paper?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: To-morrow.

MR. PROVAND: Can the right hon. Gentleman say whether it will be the first Order?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No.

Further considered, as amended, deferred till To-morrow.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question [4th July], "That the Bill be now read the third time."

Question again proposed.

MR. J. E. ELLIS (Nottingham, Rushcliffe), said it was admitted that the Bill touched wider issues than those relating to Scotland, for it dealt with matters connected with the root of the whole Private Bill system of the three kingdoms—a system which was not only most interesting, but one of the most admirable parts of the Parliamentary Constitution; a system which had grown up through generations, and, under some of the most distinguished Members of Parliament, had been brought to a state in which it was superior to any machinery for the purpose in any other Parliament in the world. As to local inquiries, except for the smallest and simplest matters, they were very unsatisfactory methods. For important matters they must have the machinery of a Private Bill Committee. As to this Bill, it was an attenuated shadow, and there never was a time when Parliament ought to keep a firmer grasp on Private Bill Legislation than the present. He firmly believed that many of the ideas and hopes of those who had supported this Bill would turn out to be fallacious, but he hoped that the Bill would fulfil at any rate some of the expectations of those who brought it forward.

MR. PARKER SMITH (Lanarkshire, Partick): I think this Bill is a very interesting example of the methods and character of this House. The main argument which used to be advanced in favour of this Bill was the great amount of pressure upon the time of this House. This argument, however, cannot be used in favour of the present Bill. The House of Commons has shown itself extremely jealous of parting with a shred of its power, and the main effect of this Bill will be to put fresh duties upon the officers of this House, and also upon its Members. We have shown, in dealing with this question, a profound distrust of

everybody outside except ourselves. My hon. friend is still jealous of the action of the Secretary for Scotland, but his position is changed very much indeed, for he has now no voice in choosing the Commissioners of the Parliamentary Panel, for the choice rests with the Chairmen of the two Houses, in conjunction with the Secretary for Scotland. I do not know how this measure will please the gentlemen in the country who have been most urgent in their demand for this Bill, for they have always demanded a purely Scotch tribunal under the control of the Scotch Secretary. I think we shall all watch the working of this Bill with very great interest, and we shall see whether its effect is more beneficial than the alternative plan of proceeding through the ordinary channel by a Provisional Order. I think those who wish to improve the process of Private Bill legislation will have to proceed in other directions, for one thing stands out clearly in the course of the discussion of this Bill, and that is that there is no real desire or willingness on the part of this House to give up its control over Private Bill legislation. By extending and facilitating the Provisional Order system, by reducing the fees of the two Houses and also the formalities and notices; by cutting down the expenses in every direction, and in other ways making the position of opponents with small interests easier to defend; and by considering whether a single hearing before a Joint Committee of the two Houses cannot be so surrounded with precautions as to do justice to all interests without the necessity of rehearing before a second Committee—if this is done, these matters will be more beneficial than local inquiries. I have regretted very much in these Debates to notice how few English Members have taken part, for this is not merely a Scotch question, because it concerns all the three kingdoms. I think English Members will find in this measure a useful object lesson, which will show that the best way of dealing with this question is by reducing the expenditure and retaining the whole power in the hands of Parliament. By simplifying procedure and reducing the expenses you will be conferring the greatest benefit upon the country at large.

MR. LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): There is one argument in favour of this

Mr. Parker Smith.

Bill with which I find myself in most cordial agreement. The hon. Gentleman opposite stated that it was desirable to reduce the fees of both Houses. The fees at present are unnecessarily large, and they act unquestionably as a deterrent to small corporations and individuals coming to this House to promote Bills. I hope the outcome of this discussion will be that the fees will be reduced. There can be no doubt that there is need for a drastic change in our Private Bill procedure, and that has been felt to such an extent in Wales that when this Bill was introduced I felt that a measure of this kind should also apply to Wales, because Wales applies for a larger number of Private Bills than Scotland. The Government having refused to grant a Return of the Private Bills for Scotland and Wales, I went through the records myself, and I find that in 1897 there were twenty-three Private Bills from Wales and only nine from Scotland. I do not quote these figures for the purpose of grudging this Bill to Scotland, whatever good there may be in it, with its fearful and wonderful machinery. I am glad that Scotland in this matter is the country upon which the experiment will be performed, and I trust that Wales will derive the advantage of whatever experience may be gained in this case. In the populous and industrial districts of South Wales, owing to the development of trade and commerce, those districts which are rapidly growing in population and trade are obliged to come to this House from time to time for powers which can only be conferred upon them by Parliament. In one case, I was informed that the expenditure on one side alone amounted to no less than £180,000. What the expenditure on the other side was is not exactly known, but it is said to have been much larger. Now, I think there is a real grievance in all that money being spent in London, instead of in the locality from which the money has been taken. I venture to think that a local inquiry would have considerably lessened the expense in this particular case. I trust that, in the course of time, a Bill will be passed for Wales, not perhaps on exactly the same lines as the Bill which is now being carried for Scotland, but I hope when experience will have discovered what are the weak points and the excellent points of this Bill, that it will be applied to other parts of the United

Kingdom as well. I am sure everybody must have regarded with great dissatisfaction the enormous expenditure to which certain Irish railway companies were put during the last few weeks within the walls of the House. Surely a better system can be devised than that which drags over from different parts of the United Kingdom a host of witnesses who could be examined on the spot. I am sure all hon. Members deeply regret this great waste of public money.

MR. ARTHUR ELLIOT (Durham) : I confess that I am unable to remain silent after hearing the remarks which have fallen from hon. Gentlemen opposite. Many of us hoped by this Bill to have accomplished a reform in Private Bill legislation on behalf of poor people who have schemes on hand, but who find their projects thwarted by the gross and wasteful expenditure involved in bringing witnesses unnecessarily from the locality to London. This Bill comes forward, and on the Third Reading it is supported by hon. Gentlemen opposite on the ground that it can do little harm, and because it is not the same Bill which the Government laid before us in the first instance. Hon. Members opposite have said that if this proves an effectual reform they hope it will be deemed advisable to extend it to England and Ireland. Now, I do ask hon. Members if they seriously think this Bill is a suitable one to extend to Ireland. I do not think the Government are at all likely to bring forward a Bill framed on these lines for Ireland. I will not say anything more upon this question, because I have already discussed the matter upon a previous occasion, but I cannot conceive the wisdom of sending down two peers and two Members of this House to hold an inquiry in Scotland while there are men of affairs in the locality who are quite as competent to hold such inquiries, especially when after that trouble and expense the question has actually to be brought back to the House in order that it may all be gone over again. I must say that I greatly regret that the Government have not stuck more firmly to their guns, and that they have not adhered to the Bill which was at first introduced, for it was a much better Bill than the one which we are now asked to pass.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy) said there were so many objections to the Bill that it was questionable whether it would not be better to wait a little longer for one that was more perfect. However, he supported the Third Reading of the Bill as a step in the direction of local control of local affairs, though he would have had Scottish Members and Scottish men of affairs to deal with Scottish Bills. One great objection was the fact that after a local inquiry had been held, if there was an appeal, the appeal was made to practically the same tribunal, sitting at Westminster, as held the local inquiry in Scotland. It was a step, however, that other Governments would have to follow in the future, and he hoped the experiment would have the success the Lord Advocate anticipated.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the third time and passed.

LAND TAX COMMISSIONERS' NAMES BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Clause 1 :—

Committee report progress ; to sit again To-morrow.

SUPPLY [21ST JULY].

Resolutions reported.

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1899-1900.

1. Sec. 3. "That a sum, not exceeding £6,601,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the expense of the Contract Work for Shipbuilding, Repairs, etc., which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900.

2. Sec. 2. "That a sum, not exceeding £3,799,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the expense of the Material for Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, etc., including the cost of Establishments of Dockyards and Naval Yards at Home and Abroad, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900.

3. Sec. 1. "That a sum, not exceeding £2,417,000, be granted to Her Majesty,

to defray the Expense of the Personnel for Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, &c., including the cost of Establishments of Dockyards and Naval Yards at Home and Abroad, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900."

4. "That a sum, not exceeding £261,600, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Expenses of the Admiralty Office, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900."

Resolutions agreed to.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS (SCOTLAND) ACT AMENDMENT BILL [Lords].

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged.

Bill withdrawn.

METROPOLITAN POLICE BILL.

SECOND READING.

Motion made and Question proposed:
"That the Bill be now read a second time."

Order for Second Reading read.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid.): This appears to be a Bill which takes an amount of money not exceeding £1,200, and hands it over to the police. Now the police has a very large subsidy from the Imperial funds, and also a large payment out of the local funds, and we have always protested against these special claims on behalf of the Metropolitan Police. This Bill introduces a new charge of £1,200, which we shall certainly object to.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir M. WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): It is true that the language of the Bill is very wide, but the object of the Bill is to do away with the mischievous system of bounties which now exists, and to substitute a payment out of the Vote. It does not in any way create a new charge, but merely gets rid of the mischievous system of allowances.

DR. CLARK (Caithness): We object to this Bill because we think that London is rich enough and big enough to manage her own police, and she ought to be made to pay for her police, as any of the provincial towns and boroughs. The police ought to be handed over to the County Council, who ought also to have the management of the magistrates, and that she ought to bear the extra burden.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: There is no extra burden arising under this Bill.

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea): It is a matter for regret that the Home Secretary did not tell us what the allowances were. I sincerely trust that on the next occasion he will give this information, so as to show the necessity for this Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for to-morrow.

GORDON MEMORIAL COLLEGE, AT KHARTOUM BILL [Lords].

SECOND READING.

Motion made, and Question proposed,
"That the Bill be now read a second time."

MR. DILLON: This is a Bill to which I have the greatest objection. I have considerable objection to the Gordon Memorial Fund, and I think it wrong to start a scheme of this kind so soon after the appalling slaughter at Omdurman. By such a policy the House identifies itself with the whole policy of these proposals. There is another aspect of the case, and that is, is this college to be a Christian college or a Mahomedan one, or what religion are you going to teach, or are you going to teach any at all? This, I think, we are entitled to know before we give this Vote.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! It is altogether irrelevant to discuss the internal management of this college, or the religion which shall be taught there. The only question is, whether the money should be invested in certain securities.

MR. DILLON : In view of your ruling, Mr. Speaker, I cannot proceed.

MR. DAVITT : Should I be in order in proposing to change the title from "The Gordon Memorial College" to "The College for Teaching British Pharisism" ?

MR. T. M. HEALY : I desire to use a few arguments in favour of the Bill. The majority of the inhabitants of the Soudan are Mahomedans, and the Government are most anxious to suit the education of that country to the native prejudices of those people. We know that in Ireland we are debarred from doing that, because the majority of the Irish people happen to be Catholics.

*MR. SPEAKER : Order, order ! The hon. Member must use arguments which are relevant to the subject under discussion.

MR. CALDWELL : I think this Bill is wrong, because it proposes to invest money in Egyptian securities. In a matter of this kind, in which you are perpetuating the name of a British subject, I think you ought to have Imperial securities, and not invest this money where it may eventually be depreciated.

MR. DALZIEL : I think the Government ought to give us their opinion in regard to the security of this stock. Surely we are entitled to ask whether this is the best security we can obtain for the money. I do hope we shall have some opinion from the Government in regard to this investment.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH : In the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, Egyptian Stocks are a perfectly safe investment for the money of this trust.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

ISLE OF MAN (CUSTOMS) BILL.

Read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN OVERTIME IN WASHING BOTTLES, ETC.

SIR JAMES RANKIN (Herefordshire, N.) : With regard to this question, I think opinion can be divided into two schools of thought. The first school believe that women should be perfectly free to make their own contracts with their employers ; and the second believe that with regard to a certain class of workers and work a certain amount of interference by law is allowable. In 1878, 1891, and 1895 various laws regulating overtime, and the employment of children and young persons were enacted, and I think it is generally acknowledged that those regulations have been beneficial to health in our factories. The fruit preserving trade, however, has been exempted from this rule. No one wishes to unduly interfere with the fruit preserving trade, which undoubtedly requires certain exemption during the season when the fruit has to be prepared and preserved, for if it is not done quickly the fruit would spoil. It has been the custom for jam manufacturers to work outside the Factory Act, but recently the Home Secretary has made an edict that a good many of these operations, which have hitherto been considered to be outside the Factory Acts, are not really so, and he has made an exemption with regard to the washing of bottles. I am prepared to admit that the washing of bottles is a very important part of the fruit-preserving industry, but I hold that they are much more likely to be properly cleaned by women who work twelve hours a day rather than fourteen. Therefore, I think the House would do well not to allow the exemption in regard to that particular work. In one of the inspector's reports for the year 1898, it is stated that very often the work of preserving fruit, and the washing of bottles, has been put off until after other work has been done, so as to enable these manufacturers to put in extra time. I think this is going beyond the spirit of the law, and these exemptions should be strictly adhered to. I am not going to detain the House at this late hour of the night upon these matters, because they are within the cognisance of hon. Members already, and many Members of this House take a deep interest in the working of the Factory Acts. In my opinion, this particular business of washing bottles might very well be carried on within the limits of the

twelve hours' rule. I beg to move the Resolution which stands in my name.

Motion made, and Question proposed:—

"That the Order of the Secretary of State for the Home Department, extending to factories and workshops in which the washing of bottles for use in the preserving of fruit is carried on, the special exception (Employment of Women Overtime) ought to be annulled."—*(Sir James Rankin.)*

*MR. J. G. TALBOT (Oxford University): I rise to second the motion of my hon. friend, although I think it is impossible for this matter to receive adequate consideration at this late hour of the night. I would first remind my right hon. friend the Home Secretary that, in answer to a question from myself in May last, he admitted that the condition of young persons and women in the jam factories was unsatisfactory, and he said there was a case for legislation. Further, it will be seen from the Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories for 1897, that there is already great pressure upon a class of persons peculiarly deserving the consideration of this House, I mean girls of the delicate age of fourteen and upwards, and at a time of year when, as in weather we have been lately experiencing, the conditions of labour are exhausting. But instead of improving their condition, this Order to which we object would seem to make it worse. It legalises, as I understand it, the illegal stretching of the law to bottle washing and other processes, which are connected with the fruit industry, but do not require the immediate action which is needed for dealing with fresh fruit on its arrival. I am sure that the kind sympathy of the Home Secretary would not favour such treatment as this Order seems to sanction, and I do not understand what influence has prevailed with him. I hope he may consent to least to modify this Order.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: I think there must be some misunderstanding on the part of the hon. Baronet who moved this motion, and my right hon. friend who seconded it, as to the intention and effect of this order. They have both spoken as if there had been a breaking of the law with reference to the exemption enjoyed in the fruit preserving industry

Sir James Rankin.

under the Factory Acts, and that pressure has now been brought to bear to legalise it. This Order has nothing whatever to do with the industries of fruit preserving, but it is—as was described by the hon. Baronet who brought this motion before the House—the result of my having found it desirable to apply the Factory Acts to the industry of bottle washing, to which they have not been previously applied. For many years the trade of bottle washing, and of getting the bottles ready for the purpose of preserving fruit—which must be done immediately—has not been held to be within the Factory Acts, and the result has been that unlimited overtime has been imposed upon the women in that industry, and there has been no restrictions whatever.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: Yes, illegally.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: It is extremely doubtful whether at present the process of bottle washing really does come within the section of the Act which talks of the adaptation of an article for sale. On the advice of my inspectors, I have been anxious to secure some limitation of the hours of work of the women employed in this industry, and I have accordingly consented to hold that this cleaning of the bottles should be held to come within the Factory Acts. That obviously meant that there would be a restriction imposed upon the labour of the women which had not previously been imposed. It has nothing whatever to do with the section of the Act of 1891, which exempts the operations of cleaning and preparing fruit during the months of June, July, August and September. It has nothing to do with section 56 of the Act of 1878, which gives an exemption of sixty days in a year to those employed in the process of making preserve from fruit. The position is this—that having imposed upon the bottle washing industry the necessity of coming under the Factory Acts it was represented to me by the manufacturers and others employed in the trade that it would be a desirable thing to give the comparatively small exemption which this Order gives, and this view was supported by the inspectors.

MR. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E.): Will the right hon. Gentleman say under what section the Order is made?

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: It is made under Section 53 of the Act of 1878. Therefore the House will see that the effect of the action of the Home Office in this particular has been to bring this industry within the Factory Acts, and therefore to restrict the labour of women. Exemptions are recognised by the Factory Acts in industries subject to seasonal pressure provided the Home Secretary is satisfied of their propriety. I have been satisfied upon the reports I have received that it would not be injurious to the women employed in this industry for this amount of overtime. I am satisfied that this industry comes under the words of the section as a trade liable to a certain press of orders, and it has been proved to me that it is a process which must be done immediately before the bottles are used. I cannot help thinking that is a perfectly reasonable exemption, and when my right hon. friend says it is totally contrary to the spirit of an answer which I gave to a question I venture again to say that I agree with him so far as to think that it will be necessary to do something to remove the state of things which prevails in the jam trade—properly so-called. But the question before us is a very different one, for it is bringing in for the first time a new industry—not jam-making, and it is desirable and almost necessary, in the interests of the trade and in accordance with this section, that there should be this exemption, which, I am satisfied, is not likely to cause any injury to the women employed.

*MR. TENNANT (Berwickshire): I should like to know if this Order is going to be applied in those factories in which only bottle-washing is being done, or is it going to apply to bottle-washing departments in fruit preserving factories. If it is, I am very much afraid that it will have a contrary effect to that which he anticipates and desires. I hope the right hon. Gentleman will explain this point. I do not think any good can accrue from this Order: I am very much afraid that the right hon. Gentleman will apply it to these departments in jam factories.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: The Order has nothing to do with the preserving of fruit, and it will only apply to persons engaged in bottle-washing.

*MR. TENNANT: In that case I

think that any further discussion is unnecessary.

MR. HAZELL (Leicester) and SIR CHARLES DILKE supported the restriction of overtime in fruit-preserving factories, and

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY again assured the House that the Order did not apply to jam factories.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: If that is so, the Debate need not be continued.

MR. ASQUITH: The hon. Baronet has obtained a useful result by raising this discussion, because it has cleared up the apprehensions in the minds of some of us of the scope and intention of the Order. I merely wish to guard against the idea that it is possible for the Home Office to determine whether any particular trade does or does not come within the scope of the Act. So far as I am able to judge, I agree with the gentlemen who advised the Home Secretary upon this matter.

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea) was of opinion that the result might be that the women engaged in jam-making for long hours would then engage in bottle-washing for a sub-contractor. He regretted extremely that these exemptions should exist at all. The Home Office had yielded to pressure from without. Girls were to be worked fifteen and sixteen hours a day in the most insanitary conditions, in order that their employers might build yachts to race for the America Cup. Humanity did not demand it; science did not require it, and he thought that greater protection should be given to the girls who did this work.

MR. MADDISON (Sheffield, Brightside) failed to understand how it was the Home Secretary had not come to the conclusion that overtime was a wrong thing to allow, after girls had worked so many hours. He trusted the hon. Baronet would go to a Division upon the question, as it would be the means of saving the girls of the bottle-washing establishments from a grievous wrong.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.) said it appeared to him that the Order

was a departure from the general line of factory legislation, though it did not go so far as the House was led to suppose. He failed to see how it was going to be applied to jam manufacturers, who had heavy demands made upon them when the fresh fruit arrived.

*MR. TENNANT asked the Home Secretary to make it clear, in accordance with his assurance across the floor of the House, in the Order itself that it should have no application to any department of jam factories.

*SIR M. WHITE-RIDLEY said it was never intended so to be applied, and he would certainly see that this was done if necessary.

SIR JAMES RANKIN said that, after that intimation, he would ask leave to withdraw his Amendment. [Opposition cries of "No."]

The House divided :—Ayes, 25 ; Noes, 83. (Division List, No. 296.)

AYES.

Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Caldwell, James
Channing, Francis Allston
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
Clough, Walter Owen
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doogan, P. C.
Duckworth, James
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Hayne, Rt. Hon. C. Seale-

Hazell, Walter
Horniman, Frederick John
Jones, W. (Carnarvonshire)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
Macaleese, Daniel
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Pease, Joseph A. (Northumb.)
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Steadman, William Charles

Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wedderburn, Sir William
Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
Wilson, H. J. (York, W. R.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. John Burns and Mr. Maddison.

NOES

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold, Alfred
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barry, Rt. Hn. A. H. Smith (Hunts)
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. A. Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bethell, Commander
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Carlile, William Walter
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir J. Charles Ready
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
Curzon, Viscount
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edwd.
Finch, George H.

Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Gedge, Sydney
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. R. W.
Howell, William Tudor
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kewick, William
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverpool)
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milton, Viscount
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropsh.)
Morrell, George Herbert
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Nicholson, William Graham
Pease, H. Pike (Darlington)
Pilkington, R. (Lancs, Newton)

Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chs. Thomson
Robinson, Brooke
Russell, T. W. (Tyronne)
Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Williams, Jos. Powell (Birm.)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

POST OFFICE MAIL CONTRACT (HARWICH TO THE HOOK OF HOL- LAND).

Resolved—"That the contract, dated the 3rd day of April, 1899, between the Postmaster-General and the Great Eastern Railway Company, for the daily conveyance of mails from Harwich to

the Hook of Holland, be approved."—
(*Mr. Hanbury.*)

In pursuance of the Order of the House of the 17th day of this instant July, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at twenty-five minutes
before Two o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 25th July 1899.

MARQUESS OF HEADFORT.

Report made from the Lord Chancellor, that the right of Geoffrey Thomas Marquess of Headfort to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland has been established to the satisfaction of the Lord Chancellor; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

NEW PEERS.

The Lord KENLIS (*M. Headfort*)—Sat first in Parliament after the death of his father.

Sir HORATIO HERBERT KITCHENER K.C.B., K.C.M.G., Major-General of Her Majesty's Forces, Sirdar of the Egyptian Army, having been created Baron Kitchener of Khartoum, and of Aspell in the county of Suffolk—Was (in the usual manner) introduced.

EVELYN LORD CROMER, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., C.I.E., Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General in Egypt, and Minister Plenipotentiary in the Diplomatic Service, having been created Viscount Cromer of Cromer, in the county of Norfolk—Was (in the usual manner) introduced.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

GATESHEAD AND DISTRICT TRAMWAYS BILL.

Reported, with Amendments.

DERWENT VALLEY WATER BILL.

The Queen's Consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

DUBLIN CORPORATION (MARKETS) BILL.

Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

LONDON, WALTHAMSTOW, AND EPPING FOREST RAILWAY (No. 2) BILL.

Reported, with Amendments.

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DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL.

Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 20) BILL.

Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL BILL.

DARWEN CORPORATION BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 1.) BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to.

PIER AND HARBOUR PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 2) BILL.

Returned from the Commons, with the Amendment agreed to.

CENTRAL LONDON RAILWAY BILL.

FISHGUARD AND ROSSLARE RAILWAYS AND HARBOURS BILL.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY BILL.

MANCHESTER CORPORATION (GENERAL POWERS) BILL.

Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to.

HUMBER CONSERVANCY BILL [H.L.].

LEA BRIDGE DISTRICT GAS BILL [H.L.].

SUNDERLAND CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 14) BILL.

Amendments reported (according to Order), and Bill to be read 3^a on Thursday next.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 15) BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order): Bill reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^a on Thursday next.

G

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC.

Further correspondence relating to proposed political reforms in the South African Republic (in continuation of [C.—9345.] and C.—9404.]

TRADE REPORTS—MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

No. 508. Commercial education in Sweden and Norway.

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES (ENGLAND).

Sixty-first Annual Report of the Registrar-General, for 1898.

LAND LAW (IRELAND) ACT, 1887 (EVICTION NOTICES).

Return of the number of eviction notices filed during the quarter ended 30th June, 1899.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, BELFAST.

Annual Report of the President, for the Session 1898-99.

JAMAICA.

Report of the finances of Jamaica by Sir David Barbour, K.C.S.I. (in continuation of [C.—9177], February 1899).

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION (IRELAND) BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a on Monday next.—(*The Lord Ashbourne.*) (No. 180.)

THE EARL OF MAYO: I should like to know when the Second Reading of this Bill will be taken. There are many noble Lords from Ireland who would like to be present on that occasion.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of SALISBURY): I think we might take the Second Reading on Monday, and, if noble Lords do not think it too sharp practice, the Committee stage on Tuesday. That is a matter, however, for the convenience of noble Lords from Ireland.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a on Thursday next.—(*The Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*) (No. 181.)

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: May I ask the noble Lord the Secretary for Scotland when he proposes to take the Second Reading of this Bill? It would be convenient to Scotch Peers that no delay should occur, and I would suggest, if I might, that the Second Reading be taken on Thursday.

***THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH):** I understand that the printers will be able to circulate the Bill to-morrow, and, under those circumstances, and being desirous of meeting the convenience of noble Lords opposite, I have no objection to taking the Second Reading on Thursday. I should otherwise have put it down for Friday.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES BILL [H.L.]

SECOND READING.

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

***LORD WINDSOR:** My Lords, the Bill which I am about to ask your Lordships to give a Second Reading to is a much more modest one than the Bill which I introduced earlier in the Session, but which I did not proceed with when I discovered that the Local Government Board objected to several of its clauses. I have made myself acquainted with the clauses to which the Local Government Board object, and have agreed to withdraw them—namely, Clauses 2, 3, 4, 8, and 9, and I now ask your Lordships to allow the Bill to be read a second time subject to that reservation. What remains is only a small portion of the Bill, but it contains, however, one or two clauses of considerable importance. The Bill had been drafted by those who have practical experience of the working of libraries, and its object was not to increase the powers of library authorities, but to make the Libraries Acts more workable. That was the sole object of the Bill, but the Local Government Board objected to certain clauses on the ground that they unnecessarily enlarged the powers of

library authorities, and, as I have said, I have dropped those clauses. Clause 6 is a very important one. The Public Libraries Act, 1892, empowers a library authority to make regulations for the use of their buildings, but no power is given to enforce such regulations. Following the precedent of the Public Libraries (Scotland) Act, 1887, Section 22, it is proposed to give the library authority power to make byelaws, subject to the sanction of the Local Government Board, for the regulation of the buildings under its control, and for other definite objects, so as to meet many practical difficulties which have been experienced by library authorities in the past. Clause 7 is also considered an important clause. The library authorities of two or more parishes or of two or more urban districts may now agree together for the joint use of one library, but authorities in an urban district and a parish may not so agree. This clause would enable the library authority of any district to agree with any other library authority for the joint use of a common library, etc. Although the Local Government Board do not agree with all the remaining clauses, I understand that they will not oppose the Second Reading if the five clauses I have referred to are cut out of the Bill. On that understanding I beg to move the Second Reading of the Bill.

Moved—

“That the Bill be now read 2^d.”—(*Lord Windsor*.)

***LORD HARRIS**: My Lords, the withdrawal of the clauses referred to has, I understand, been agreed upon between the Local Government Board and the noble Lord; but in assenting to the Second Reading of the Bill the Local Government Board wish it to be understood that they do not commit themselves to the approval of the clauses which remain after those mentioned by the noble Lord have been struck out. I refer particularly to Clauses 6 and 10, the latter of which abolishes the present requirement of the approval of a parish meeting or vestry in certain cases. The Local Government Board is doubtful whether that clause is advisable. With this reservation I shall not oppose the Second Reading.

On Question, agreed to.

Bill committed to a Committee of the whole House on Monday next.

SMALL HOUSES (ACQUISITION OF OWNERSHIP) BILL.

House in Committee, according to Order.

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3 :—

LORD NORTON: My Lords, I have an Amendment to move to this clause, which deals with the conditions under which a house purchased by means of an advance under the Bill shall be held. The Bill, on this important point, is in the teeth of the general legislation of the country, and my Amendment will provide that any house or land which a local authority may become possessed of by default in complying with the provisions of the Bill, or breach of its conditions, shall, as soon as possible, be sold for the best price that could be obtained for the same. The principal Act which touches the subject is the Act of 1875, which deals extensively with local authorities becoming possessors of land. That Act compels local authorities who purchase land for a special purpose to immediately sell that land which exceeds the amount absolutely required, the principle being that local authorities should not be holders of real property in their boroughs. The section, the addition of which I am moving as an Amendment, is a reproduction of the words of the Act of 1875, with the addition of a proviso that the original owner of the house or land shall have the first option of purchase. The Colonial Secretary, who is the author of the Bill, has obtained a private Act for his own city, by which the condition of a forced sale is abolished, and the local authorities enabled to become the owners. It is evident, therefore, that the right hon. Gentleman takes a very different view from that which I take; but I believe, nevertheless, that the addition of some such provision as that in the Amendment is in the interests of the country and the people. It has been said that the original owner has no claim of re-entry. I quite agree on that point, but I contend that it is in

the interests of the inhabitants of the boroughs that he should, if possible, re-purchase the land which for benevolent purposes he had parted with. I feel that the interests of our boroughs are very much in the hands of the large private proprietors, who are the only people who can carry out large extensive improvements affecting the interests of the whole of the inhabitants. The powers of these local authorities are being multiplied very rapidly, and they now possess functions for the exercise of which they were not intended. They have already got permission to promote and oppose Bills in Parliament. That is to say, they have already got considerable powers of affecting legislation, and they are now ambitious to become proprietors of real land in their districts. There seems to be no limit to the ambition of the local authorities, and if they are given the power of becoming possessed of freehold property, the amount of patronage they will have at their disposal will bring most of the inhabitants of a town into their pay, and so make them locally omnipotent. I can hardly think your Lordships would consider that a desirable result. When I spoke on the Second Reading of the Bill, the noble Earl opposite (the Earl of Kimberley) said the measure was so complicated that it would not be likely to operate. I think it is a bad defence of any Bill to say it is so drawn and so complicated that it is not likely to come into operation. It does not seem to me that the Bill is drawn in the interests of the working classes, because their interests are mobile. It is a doubtful thing whether public loans can be usefully employed in enabling working men to purchase houses, which would compel them to live in one particular spot. With regard to my proviso, I do not know what objection there can be to saying that the original owner of the house should have the first option of re-purchase when the local authority becomes possessed of the house by default in complying with the provisions of the Act. I have heard that there would be a difficulty in working this proviso, but I cannot see how any difficulty can arise. If the condition of a forced sale is not put in, and local authorities are enabled to become owners, opportunities will be given for jobbery. I am thoroughly opposed to this Americanisation of our local institutions, and I hope your Lordships will adopt my Amendment, es-

Lord Norton.

pecially as the principal Acts now on the Statute Book dealing with this question are hostile altogether to the possession of real property by local authorities, beyond that which is absolutely necessary for special purposes.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 3, page 3, line 33, after 'bankrupt,' to insert, '(6.) Any house or land which a local authority may become possessed of by default in complying with the provisions of this Act, or breach of its conditions, shall, as soon as possible, be sold for the best price that can be gotten for the same; and the original owner thereof shall have the first option of purchasing it.'"—(*The Lord Norton.*)

*THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (the Earl of SELBORNE): My Lords, the noble Lord who has moved this Amendment is evidently afraid that, under the Bill, the opportunity for speculating in house property will be given to the local authorities. I would ask your Lordships very particularly to bear in mind that a local authority can never, under any circumstances, act by way of speculation under this Bill. For the local authority to appear at all, it is necessary for a man, who can prove that he is a *bonâ fide* resident occupier, to go to the local authority and ask them to assist him to become the owner of his house. The Bill, in Clause 3, prescribes that where the ownership of a house has been acquired by means of an advance under the Bill, the house shall, until such advance with interest has been fully paid, or the local authority have taken possession or ordered a sale under the Bill, be held subject to various conditions. Sub-Clause 3 provides that, where default is made in complying with the Statutory condition as to residence, the local authority may take possession of the House, and where default is made in complying with any of the other Statutory conditions (whether the Statutory condition as to residence has or has not been complied with), the local authority may either take possession of the house, or order the sale of the house without taking possession. Sub-clause 5 enables the local authority, in the case of the bankruptcy of the proprietor of the house, or in the case of a deceased proprietor's estate being:

administered in bankruptcy, either to take possession of the house or order the sale of it. Clause 5, Sub-section 1, enacts, that where a local authority takes possession of a house, all the estate, right, interest, and claim of the proprietor in or to the house shall vest in and become the property of the local authority, who may either retain the house under their own management, or sell or otherwise dispose of it as they think expedient. There is, therefore, under the Bill, no obligation on the local authority who have taken possession of a house to sell it. The only case which is really contemplated by the noble Lord is the case, which I think we must admit would be exceptional, where men make default. If a man, having fulfilled all the conditions, and having become the owner of his house by the assistance of the local authority, subsequently fails in the Statutory conditions, or becomes bankrupt, or dies insolvent, the local authority, for the protection of the public purse, enter into possession of the house; but a discretion is left them either to sell the house at once, or to retain possession permanently, or with the object of selling it at another time. The Amendment of the noble Lord would make it absolute on the local authority to sell the house at once, and he justifies that proposal on the ground that it is against the principle of the law of the land for local authorities to be the owner of real property. I am no lawyer, and it would be presumptuous on my part to give an opinion upon the principles of the law of the land; but I know what the facts are, and I know that local authorities at the present time do own a great deal of real property, and that in Ireland a whole series of Acts have been passed with the expressed object of enabling local authorities to become owners of real property. Therefore, it is going too far to say that the discretion of the local authority must be swept aside at once, simply on the general principle that under no circumstances should a local authority become the owners of real property. Look at the practical objections to this Amendment! Local authorities are only entitled under this Bill to recoup to the public the outlay which the public has incurred. If, after a sale, there is any balance, it is to be handed over to the defaulting owner; and instances may probably occur where it will be necessary, in the interest of the local authority as

well as the proprietor, that the house should be retained in the hands of the local authority until a better price could be realised. A forced sale on the local authority might tend to depreciate the market value of the house, and might seriously affect the financial conditions established by the Bill. The noble Lord proposes, in addition to making the sale compulsory, that the original vendor should have the first option to buy the house. You must remember that there is not a single word in the whole Bill to compel any landlord to sell any land at all, and, therefore, the landlord who sells a piece of land to the local authority for the purpose of this Act does so for no other reason than that it suits him to sell the land. Therefore, having parted with the land in a purely voluntary manner, I do not see why any priority of option should be given to him.

LORD NORTON: But he sold it for a benevolent purpose.

*THE EARL OF SELBORNE: It is not suggested in this Bill that he should sell it under its value. He would sell it to the local authority just in the same way as he would sell it to a private individual. How is it possible to ensure the best price being obtained for a house if the original owner is to have the first right of purchase? You cannot have an auction in which it is understood that one person has a prior right to buy the house over the head of the man who offers the highest price. There would be few buyers under those circumstances, and as the Bill now stands there is nothing whatever to hinder the original owner going to the auction himself and buying the property; nor is there anything to prevent him buying a house back on private terms if he offers terms which are considered sufficient. Therefore, I am unable to accept this Amendment, which, I think, would introduce complications into the Bill, and seriously affect its financial conditions.

On Question, "That these words be here inserted," resolved in the negative.

Clauses 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 agreed to.

Clause 8 :—

*THE EARL OF SELBORNE: My Lords, I have an Amendment to omit this clause, and to insert a new Clause 8. The Bill, as it stands, applies the Registration of Land Acts, 1875 and 1897. The history of this Amendment is as follows: After the Bill had gone through the Grand Committee in the House of Commons, the Law Society affirmed that the insertion of this clause was a breach of the understanding arrived at in Parliament during the passage of the Land Transfer Act of 1897, and which was to the effect that, after the first Order in Council applying that Act, no further Order in Council on the subject was to be made for another three years, even if a locality so desired it. At the Report stage in the House of Commons, Mr. Chamberlain accordingly proposed to omit this clause and to submit a clause under which the local authorities should be required to keep at their offices a book containing a list of any advances made by them under the Act. The clause the right hon. Gentleman then proposed was identical with the first of the new clauses which I am now moving. He stated that he had been informed that a pledge had been given during the passage of the Land Transfer Act, 1897, that its compulsory provisions should not be extended for three years; but when the Committee assured him there had been no such pledge, he withdrew his proposal in order to consult the Attorney-General, and said the matter would be dealt with in another place, if necessary. The Attorney-General had then gone to Paris to attend the Venezuelan Arbitration, but, on reference being made to him, he was able to show that a pledge had been given which the Government are obliged to consider binding. Therefore it is that I move to strike out Clause 8, and to insert the Amendment which I have on the Paper, the effect of which will be to make a temporary provision in the first new clause—Clause 8—and in Clause 9, to endeavour to bring it into line with the stipulations of the Land Transfer Act, 1897, so that districts affected by this Bill may be brought under its operations.

Amendment moved—

"To leave out Clause 8, and insert as new clauses:

"8.—(1.) A local authority shall keep at their offices a book containing a list of any advances made by them under this Act, and shall enter therein with regard to each advance—

- (i) a description of the house in respect of which the advance is made;
- (ii) the amount advanced;
- (iii) the amount for the time being repaid;
- (iv) the name of the proprietor for the time being of the house; and
- (v) such other particulars as the local authority think fit to enter.

(2.) The book shall be open to inspection at the office of the local authority during office hours free of charge.

"9.—(1.) The registration of the title of houses in respect of which advances are made shall be compulsory under this Act—

- (a) in any county or part of a county where registration is compulsory in pursuance of an Order made under section twenty of the Land Transfer Act, 1897; and
- (b) in any county or borough the council of which, at any time after the expiration of three years from the making of the first Order under section twenty of the Land Transfer Act 1897, pass a resolution that the registration of the title of houses in respect of which advances are made shall be compulsory under this Act.

(2.) Where the registration of the title of houses in respect of which advances are made is compulsory under this Act, the following provisions shall apply with respect to advances made under this Act after the date on which the registration so becomes compulsory :—

(a.) Where a local authority make any such advance they shall cause the ownership (including any interest held by the proprietor on his purchase of the ownership) in respect of which the advance is made to be registered under the Land Transfers Acts, 1875 and 1897, and shall pay the cost of such registration out of the advance.

(b.) Rules under those Acts—

- (i) shall adapt those Acts to the registration of ownerships under this section and provide for the easy transfer of such ownerships, and for the fee upon any such transfer not exceeding ten shillings; and
- (ii) shall on the application and at the expense of a local authority provide by the appointment of local agents or otherwise for carrying into effect the objects of this section; and
- (iii) shall provide for preventing the removal from the register of a house to which the statutory conditions apply.

(3.) The proprietor of a house for the purposes of this Act shall be—

- (a.) where the ownership of the house is registered in pursuance of this section, the person appearing on the register for the time being as proprietor; and

(b.) in any other case the purchaser of the ownership, or, on any devolution or transfer, the person in whom the interest of the purchaser is for the time being vested."—(*The Earl of Selborne.*)

THE EARL OF DENBIGH: I wish to say, on behalf of the Irish Office, that the clauses moved by the noble Earl are altogether inapplicable to Ireland, and I shall be obliged to bring up Amendments on Report dealing with the matter.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (*The Earl of HALSBURY*): My Lords, we all understand, of course, that if a bargain has been made it should be kept, but I was not at all aware of this bargain. I hope this example will not be followed of exempting from the ordinary law of registration this, that, and the other thing the legislature may enact. Though I understand a pledge was given by the Attorney-General which ought to be kept, I observe that this was partly justified on the ground of some supposed pledge in 1897 on the Land Transfer Act. There is not the least pretence for saying that there was any bargain then that future legislation would not touch land transfer. No such pledge was given. I acquiesce in what has been done here, because, when a bargain is made, it should be kept, but I protest against these exemptions being made from the ordinary law of registration.

On Question, "That Clause 8 stand part of the Bill," resolved in the negative.

On Question, "That the new Clause 8 be here inserted," agreed to.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: Before the second of the two new clauses proposed by the noble Earl is agreed to, I should be glad if the noble and learned Lord opposite (*the Lord Chancellor*) would give us some explanation as to what it means. I have read the new Clause 9 proposed, but am greatly puzzled as to its effect.

LORD THRING: If the noble and learned Lord has gone through this clause and approves of it, I will say nothing, but it is inconsistent with the Land Transfer

Act. Is it really meant that a small town with only, perhaps, one house to register, must have an agent to carry the Land Transfer Act into operation? The clause provides that a proprietor of a house, for the purpose of the Bill, shall be (a) where the ownership of the house is registered in pursuance of this section, the person appearing on the register for the time being as proprietor; and (b) in any other case the purchaser of the ownership or, on any devolution or transfer, the person in whom the interest of the purchaser is for the time being vested. Well, how could it be otherwise?

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: Where registration under the general Act has been made compulsory, surely it is not necessary to declare, in another Act, that it shall be compulsory. That appears to be absolute nonsense. This clause requires careful consideration, or it will lead to the greatest confusion and misunderstanding.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: I do not say I differ from the noble Earl with regard to the complexity of the clause, but I take the real meaning to be that, where you are dealing with houses purchased under the powers of this Act, the local authorities are to have something in the nature of a little registration of their own, unless they choose to place themselves under the Land Transfer Act.

LORD THRING: But the clause does not say so.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: I think, perhaps, it would be rather indecorous if we pass a clause with so much doubt expressed upon it by practical persons. I should think that, without running any serious risk, we might abandon this motion now, reserving to ourselves the power to take it up on the Third Reading, if necessary.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: Or on Report.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: Either on Report or Third Reading.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: I have not the slightest wish to dispute the

necessity of the clause. What I object to is its form.

On Question, "That the new Clause 9 be here inserted," resolved in the negative.

Clause 9 :—

*THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: I have an Amendment to Clause 9, which I entertain some hope Her Majesty's Government will be able to accept. It provides that if the council of any urban district, not being a county borough, or of any rural district, passes a resolution undertaking to act under the Act, that council, "with the consent of the council or county borough," shall be the local authority in that district. I stated the ground upon which I proposed to move this Amendment on the Second Reading of the Bill, but perhaps it will be better if I again explain it. The proposal in Clause 9, as it stands, is that a local authority, for the purpose of the Bill, shall be the council of any county or county borough; but that if the council of any urban district, not being a county borough, or of any rural district, containing respectively a population according to the last census for the time being in excess of 7,000, passes a resolution undertaking to act under the Bill, that council shall be the local authority in that district for the purposes of the Act, and shall be entitled to oust the county council. I ventured to point out the other day that this proposal to give the duties under this Bill to rural district councils having over 7,000 inhabitants created, so far as the purposes of this Bill are concerned, a new local jurisdiction. I pressed upon the House on that occasion the extreme undesirability of in any way multiplying our local jurisdictions or areas, or adding to the complications which already exist in local affairs in consequence of the variety and number of those local jurisdictions. Anyone who has anything to do with county business knows perfectly well that great difficulty is caused in local administration through the variety of these areas, and it certainly seems to me undesirable to add to that complication in any degree whatever. I would urge your Lordships to take out this new jurisdiction of districts having 7,000 inhabitants, and leave the matter primarily

The Earl of Kimberley.

in the hands of the county councils. I do not wish to prevent altogether these rural and urban district councils from dealing with this Bill under suitable arrangements. I quite admit that they may be fit persons to administer the Bill under certain circumstances, but I feel that it is unnecessary to remove altogether the power of the county councils in regard to this matter. If urban or rural district councils are anxious to take over the duty, let them do so by all means, but with the consent of the county council. That is the nature of my Amendment. The smaller local bodies are very anxious to get larger powers into their hands. I am not sure that it is always to the advantage of the public that they should be entrusted with larger powers, but I do not object to their possessing them if it is for the public advantage. The fear is that the smaller districts may be unfitted for the purpose, and in such a case you may be sure the county council would not agree to the transfer. I think, if you omit the limit as to population, and require the consent of the county council, you will have a suitable and effective check against the administration of this Bill falling into the hands of bodies too small to properly carry it out.

Amendment moved—

"In page 6, line 13, to leave out from 'district' to 'pass' in line 14; and in line 15, after 'council' to insert 'with the consent of the council of the county or county borough.'"
(*The Marquess of Ripon.*)

LORD THRING: This clause, again, has evidently been drawn by a person unacquainted with the details of local government. The areas chosen are altogether contrary to the system ordinarily adopted. An urban district very often contains considerably fewer than 7,000 inhabitants, whilst rural districts often contain considerably more. Therefore, whenever a population limit has been applied, it has always been placed at 10,000. Why, in this Bill, is 7,000 fixed, contrary to all precedent, and contrary also to common sense? I have never seen a clause in a Bill which was more calculated to produce the maximum of friction and the minimum of efficiency than this clause. What is to happen if, when the county council has taken this matter in hand and bought houses, a

small district should say, "We will do this ourselves," and oust the county council from its jurisdiction? There is not the slightest provision in the Bill for an adjustment of the accounts. Then, again, difficulty will arise with regard to the applications. Persons will apply to their district council to buy a house for them. The district council will say, "No, we will let the county council do it." The applicants will then go to the county council, who will probably say, "The district council must help you." I do not think a clause has ever been introduced before which left it to the option of the smaller authorities to interfere at any time with the larger authorities, and which provided no rules for an adjustment of accounts. The clause condemns itself in its present form. The Amendment will do everything that is desired. There will be no conflict of jurisdiction, and the county council will agree, before any delegation is made, as to adjustment.

THE EARL OF SELBORNE: My Lords, this clause has suffered owing to its having been the scene of the familiar battle between the county councils and the non-county boroughs, which has echoed in Parliament ever since the Local Government Act of 1888. In this quarrel Her Majesty's Government take neither side. The advocates of the urban district council, and, in a less degree, of the rural district council, as against the county council, contend that this Bill affects aggregations of population. County councils are mainly composed of gentlemen who represent the rural and scattered population, and, although the Act in some cases might be sympathetically worked by such councils, yet in other cases it is feared that, unless strict provision is made for the rights of urban and rural district councils, county councils might obstruct the operation of the Act in those areas. This is the objection which has been put forward, but I guard myself from adopting such a view. On the other hand, it has been pointed out that if the Act was applied without restriction to any council, however small its area, the effect might be to put the working of an Act of great delicacy and complication in the hands of bodies too small and of insufficient experience. As a *via media* the Government have adopted the figure of 7,000, because that compromise would

exclude no small town of importance, and the Act will be probably more sympathetically administered by the district than the county council, a body which would not have that local knowledge which is thought necessary for the carrying out of the spirit of the Act. As regards the Amendment of the noble Marquess, he will allow me to point out that the words "or county borough" have crept into his Amendment unnecessarily.

*THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: That is so.

THE EARL OF SELBORNE: I admit that it cannot be denied that the provisions, as they stand, do not tend to simplification. I am afraid we are always pursuing the ideal of simplification in local government, but we never obtain it. The point brought forward by the noble and learned Lord opposite (Lord Thring) is one to which I have given attention, and I find that the figure of 10,000 has many exceptions.

LORD THRING: I admit that. What I said was that the general rule has been 10,000, and they are classified in all the books under that figure.

THE EARL OF SELBORNE: As I have said, the figure of 10,000 has many exceptions, and this will be another. I quite understand the object of the noble Lord who moved this Amendment, but it would not be possible for the Government to accept it, for it would, as drafted, leave it in the discretion of a county council to veto any application by an urban council to become the authority under the Act. There are urban district councils with very large populations—I believe as large as 100,000—and having the importance, if not the status, of municipalities; and the Government could not assent to give the county council the veto power over such urban councils. On a general consideration of the case, we have thought that the line is safely drawn at 7,000; but what I would be prepared to do would be to insert words which, in respect of all districts under 7,000, would give the county council power to say whether those authorities should become the local authority under this Bill, or not. That is to say, the limit of 7,000 would be withdrawn in its present affirmative sense, but words would be put in providing that

no council with a district whose population is less than 7,000 would be able to become the local authority under this Bill except with the consent of the county council.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: The exordium of the noble Earl's remarks was somewhat embarrassing, because he said the Government have, on the general principle, no opinion at all. I understood the noble Earl to say that the Government take no side in the conflict of opinion as to the local authority.

THE EARL OF SELBORNE: I said we did not identify ourselves with either of the extreme partisans, but that, as a *via media*, we adopted the figure of 7,000.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: There is a tendency on the part of the smaller local authorities to resist being placed under the larger local authorities, and, if possible, to secure more powers. One of the great recommendations of the measure which was passed by a Conservative Government, creating county councils, was that for the first time it would disregard to a considerable extent the outcries of the small authorities, who, with true parochial instincts, objected to the smallest powers being taken away from them, although the placing of those powers under a more central authority was necessary for the government of the country. The measure to which I have referred placed under the county councils very important urban districts. Even in the county in which I live, we have two boroughs of ancient fame which are under the county council, and, although they now acquiesce in the arrangement, it was not without great heartburnings and great regret on their part. I think it is an advantage that there should be a concentration of authority, except in the case of large county boroughs which, of course, enjoy separate jurisdiction. I was disappointed to hear that the Government put forward no view on this matter. It might have been expected from the authors of the Local Government Act that they would take a distinct line, and would not assent to the established system of local government being gradually pulled to pieces. I admit the difficulty that there is in resisting the pressure of these small authorities, but I think the Government might have exercised their authority

The Earl of Selborne.

in the matter, and have enlarged the figure beyond 7,000.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: There is a very refreshing change in the atmosphere of criticism which we have passed through at the hands of the noble Lords opposite. In respect to the Tithe Bill, we were censured because we had a policy of our own, and because we stuck to it determinedly, which was supposed to indicate a very reprobate frame of mind; but now, because we are willing to listen to persuasion, the noble Earl considers us worthy of nothing but condemnation. The difficulty, of course, is, when you are fighting over numbers, that there is absolutely no principle to guide you. You must take those numbers which are most agreeable to the persons who have authority to speak on the matter. I do not imagine that there is any particular virtue about the figure of 7,000; that was taken as the number which would be most likely to lead to a general agreement. I am surprised to hear the contempt which the noble Lord expressed for any intermediate policy. When we tell him that we are pursuing a *via media*, he says that is no policy at all. I hope that when we get back to theological discussions the noble Lord will forget that unfortunate observation.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: What I said was that there ought to be a policy which is not a *via media*. I was disappointed at it not being indicated to which side the Government would have inclined if they had not been obliged to resort to a compromise.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: I understood the noble Lord to express contempt of the action we had taken in adopting the *via media*, and I only repeat that, from so good a Protestant as the noble Earl, I was surprised to hear such an observation.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: I would ask the Government to accept the figure of 10,000, by means of which they will prevent the creation of any more confusion.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: What the noble Lord wants is five figures.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: Indeed, it is not. What I want is the figure known to the law, and which is already in operation in most cases.

THE EARL OF SELBORNE: Her Majesty's Government identify themselves with the noble Marquess in his desire to simplify matters. It is, in fact, their own policy which he has done them the compliment to adopt; but, in respect of this particular Bill, they thought the *via media* proposed was a fair one, because the case of the small urban communities was unusually strong. If 10,000 were accepted as a compromise, and were generally approved, I should be willing to agree to it on one condition—namely, that there should be an appeal against an adverse decision of the county council to the Local Government Board.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: I am not unwilling to accept that arrangement. My only object is to make the Bill a good one. Though I accept an appeal to the Local Government Board, I must say that my confidence in that Board, and in its way of dealing with county councils, is not great. I withdraw my Amendment.

*THE EARL OF SELBORNE: I will amend the Bill, as stated, in the Standing Committee or on Report.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clauses 9 and 10 agreed to.

Clause 11:—

THE EARL OF SELBORNE: I beg to move that the words, "the expression 'house' shall include 'lands'" be omitted from this clause, which applies the Act to Scotland. I am informed by a most remarkable consensus of legal opinion that the words are unnecessary, and that any small parcel of land really accessory to the house, whether in the shape of a garden or yard, is undoubtedly included in this Bill.

Amendment moved—

"In page 8, line 20, to leave out 'the expression 'house' shall include 'lands.''"—
(*The Earl of Selborne.*)

On Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause," resolved in the negative.

Clause 11, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 12 and 13 agreed to.

Clause 14:—

THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN: My Lords, I have an Amendment to this clause, providing that the word "house" shall be deemed to include lands—the words which have just been omitted with regard to Scotland. The noble Earl has stated that the words are not considered necessary, because a yard or garden would be deemed to be included with the house; but I am not sure whether that would hold good in respect to Ireland, where the vast majority of labourers' cottages have half an acre of land attached. Will the noble Earl inform me?

THE EARL OF DENBIGH: With regard to lands, the definition would be the same in Ireland as in England and Scotland. I am afraid I shall not be able, on behalf of the Irish Office, to consent to the Amendment.

THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN: My reason for moving the Amendment is to make the Bill operative in Ireland. If this extension is not granted, so as to include the little plots of land attached to the cottages, the Bill will have little effect in Ireland, and will create great disappointment. One of the main objects of the Bill, as stated by the noble Earl who introduced it, is to enable the working classes to become the owners of their houses, and in that way to add to the social stability of the country. I do not think it can be stated that social stability is more firmly secured in Ireland than in England, or that Ireland should be deprived of any of that ballast which is considered necessary for England. It is clear that unless the Bill can be made to apply to the class of agricultural labourers, it will have very limited application indeed in Ireland. Anybody who has known Ireland well, during the last ten years, will have noticed with gratification the enormous improvement which has taken place in the dwellings of the agricultural labourers, and it is highly desirable to encourage them. The best way to do so is to hold out the hope that by thrift and industry they may become the owners of their own houses. If the expression "house" does not include land, it is certain

that the Bill, as it stands, will exclude practically the whole of the agricultural labourers in Ireland. For this reason I beg to move the Amendment standing in my name.

Amendment moved—

“In page 11, after line 29, to insert as new sub-sections:

“(2) The word ‘house’ shall be deemed to include lands.

“(3) Where any district council is the owner of any house under the provisions of the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, such council may advance money to the occupier to enable him to acquire the ownership of the house under the conditions of this Act provided that all moneys received from the occupier shall be applied to the extinction of any debt incurred by such council under the provisions of the Labourers (Ireland) Acts.”—(*Lord Kenry (E. Dunraven and Mount-Earl).*)

THE EARL OF DENBIGH: I naturally should not be prepared or anxious to dispute what the noble Earl has said with regard to the desirability of doing everything to promote social stability in Ireland, nor would anybody dispute the fact that ownership of property tends rather to promote social stability than otherwise. But I would suggest to the noble Earl that, in this particular case, it would be better, if it is thought desirable to bring the labourers' cottages within the purview of this Bill, that it should be done by an Amendment of the Labourers Acts rather than in the manner proposed by the noble Earl. Owing to the complication of the many arrangements, and the number of conditions which would have to be imposed upon the occupiers, it is believed that it would be very difficult to interpret, with this Act, those necessary and complicated provisions by way of amendment. I would remind the noble Earl that the Labourers Acts were passed for the purpose of providing adequate accommodation for agricultural labourers in Ireland, and to enable local authorities to borrow money from the Board of Works and advance it on the mortgage of these houses. Many schemes have been disallowed on appeal to the Privy Council for two reasons—first, that the existing accommodation had been proved to be sufficient in the locality in question; and, secondly, that it has been shown that the houses were not intended for labourers at all, but for a different class. It is obvious that the houses should be kept for the purpose for which they were intended—

Earl of Dunraven.

namely, for agricultural labourers; but I would point out that, under the Bill, there is nothing to prevent the sale of a house to any person; consequently, the houses might be diverted altogether from their original use, and get into the hands of persons who are not agricultural labourers at all. It might be necessary, under those circumstances, to start new schemes under the Labourers Acts, a process which might be carried on *ad infinitum*. Therefore, it has been felt that the promotion of social stability in Ireland can be better accomplished by other means, and I must ask your Lordships to refuse the Amendment moved by the noble Earl.

THE EARL OF MAYO: I am pleased that the Irish Office have resisted this Amendment, which would create an objectionable state of things in Ireland. In numerous instances, tenant farmers have erected cottages on their farms to accommodate their labourers, and if this Amendment had been adopted, what would happen if the farmer wanted to get rid of a labourer who had bought his house? Would he have to erect another cottage on the land to accommodate the labourer he wanted? Tenants already pay their rent very badly, and Boards of Guardians will not evict; but, notwithstanding this, the noble Earl proposes to give these Boards power to lend money to buy houses, when it is pretty certain that they are not likely to get that money paid back. A house under this Bill will include the gardens or yard, but surely half-an-acre of land is neither a garden nor a yard. I am delighted that the Amendment has been resisted.

THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN: The noble Lord who represents the Irish Office has stated that my object would be better attained by an amendment of the Labourers Acts. I confess I do not see the logic of that argument, but if my noble friend will assure me that the Government will give me some assistance in carrying an amendment of those Acts, I shall be content. I cannot, however, help expressing my regret that a Bill intended for the advantage of the working classes should be allowed to pass in a form which renders it practically inoperative for the working classes in Ireland.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

THE EARL OF DENBIGH: I should like to move, as this question has been settled, an Amendment to make it more distinct.

Amendment moved—

"In page 12, line 23, at end of clause, to insert, as a new sub-section: 'An advance shall not be made under this Act for the purpose of a house required under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, 1883 to 1896, and held by the district council under those Acts.'"—(*The Earl of Denbigh.*)

On Question, "That this sub-section be here inserted," agreed to.

Clause 14, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 15 agreed to.

Bill re-committed to the Standing Committee; and to be printed as Amended. (No. 182.)

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON ACT (1898) AMENDMENT BILL.

Read 3^a (according to Order); an Amendment made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

QUESTIONS.

TRANSVAAL AFFAIRS.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: I wish to ask the noble Earl the Under-Secretary for the Colonies a question of which I have given him private notice—whether he proposes to lay further Papers on the Table with regard to affairs in the Transvaal?

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (The Earl of SELBORNE): I believe to-day Papers will be laid on the Table containing an account of the Bloemfontein Conference, and we

hope on Thursday to lay on the Table a further Blue Book.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: I beg to give notice that I shall, on Friday next, call attention to affairs in the Transvaal.

EXCISE PROSECUTIONS IN IRELAND.

THE EARL OF MAYO: My Lords, I beg to ask Her Majesty's Government if, in view of the inability of the Excise authorities in Ireland, owing to the admitted insufficiency of the staff, to properly administer the Excise laws relating to game and gun licences and game dealing licences, they will take steps to increase the staff, either permanently or temporarily, during the approaching shooting season; and whether they will issue special instructions to all Excise officers in Ireland to take the necessary steps to enable them in the course of the ensuing season to demand the exhibition of the requisite licence from every person in possession of a gun, or found pursuing game, or of persons dealing in game. With your Lordships' leave, I should like to make a few remarks with reference to this question. Two sessions ago I placed the same question on the Paper, and the answer I received with regard to the staff of officers who had to see that the game licences in Ireland were taken out, was to the effect that the staff was not large, and that, as each officer had to cover a large area, protection was more difficult. To show how serious this question is in Ireland, and how little the law has been carried out for the last eight years, I may mention that we have formed a Game Protection Association to put the law in force. We have appointed local inspectors and game watchers in numerous districts, and fifty cases were considered by the Committee and nineteen persons prosecuted. In several of these cases, two only of which were dismissed, very heavy fines were imposed. We now ask Her Majesty's Government if they will either increase the staff temporarily during the present shooting season, or issue special instructions to all the excise officers in Ireland. It would also help us considerably if the police were empowered to demand the exhibition of the requisite licence from every person in possession of a gun, or found pursuing game.

***LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH**: I ask your Lordships' permission to answer this question on behalf of the Lord Privy Seal, who has been obliged to go away. The quotation which the noble Lord has made from the speech of two sessions ago will hardly, I think, carry him quite the length he seems to imply. The staff is not admitted by the Treasury to be insufficient. It is, no doubt, the case that the staff is not relatively so large as in England and Scotland, and that the districts are, therefore, more extensive in area; but the officers have not so much duty to do, relatively to the population, as in England and Scotland, and therefore they can cover a larger area. The Chancellor of the Exchequer says he cannot possibly increase the staff for the special purpose indicated by the noble Earl. The object of the Gun and Game Licence Act was to raise the revenue by taxing a special species of luxury, and not to protect game. The Chancellor of the Exchequer does not think it reasonable to expect that the staff of Excise men should be increased solely for the purpose of effecting the latter object. With regard to the second part of the question, the Government have no reason to think that there is any remissness in Ireland in dealing with the offences referred to. So far as the information at the disposal of the Government goes, the number of detections and convictions in Ireland for the class of offence referred to by the noble Earl is large as compared with England and Scotland, but I am authorised to say that the Board of Inland Revenue will call the attention of their supervisors and officers to the matter, and will impress upon them the necessity of exercising the greatest vigilance against offenders. I may say, in regard to the remarks of the noble Earl, that if he will look at Return No. 223 of the present session of Parliament, he will see that the pledge to do what was possible to detect offences against the Gun and Game Laws has been adequately fulfilled, because no less than 116 prosecutions have arisen out of detections on the part of the Royal Irish Constabulary.

House adjourned at a quarter-past Six of the clock, to Thursday next, half-past Ten of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 25th July 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

GLASGOW CORPORATION TELEPHONES BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed,
"That the Second Reading be deferred."
—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

MR. DUNCOMBE (Cumberland, Egremont): Why is this Bill to be postponed again? It apparently stands little chance of passing. Unless adequate reason is given I shall feel bound to oppose the motion.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid.): The proposal is in accordance with an arrangement made with the Treasury that it shall be put off till the 2nd August. Possibly the measure will be carried over till next session.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I think the reason given is altogether inadequate for postponing a Bill which is down "by Order." This Bill was introduced on its own bottom, and I cannot conceive any supporter of the Government having anything to do with it.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON (Glasgow, Bridgeton): The postponement is due to the position of the Government Telephone Bill. In all probability it will be carried over till next session.

Question put, and agreed to.

Second Reading deferred till Wednesday, 2nd August.

LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY (ADDITIONAL POWERS) BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to, with Amendments; and a consequential Amendment made to the Bill.

LOUGHBOROUGH CORPORATION BILL
[Lords].

MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR BOARD
(FINANCE) BILL [Lords].

PORT TALBOT RAILWAY AND DOCKS
BILL [Lords].

WHITEHAVEN CORPORATION BILL
[Lords].

Read the third time, and passed, with
Amendments.

MOSS SIDE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
(TRAMWAYS) BILL [Lords].

RENFREW BURGH AND HARBOUR
EXTENSION BILL [Lords].

STRETFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
(TRAMWAYS) BILL [Lords].

WITHINGTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
(TRAMWAYS) BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered ; to be read
the third time.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 4) BILL.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 12) BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and
agreed to.

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION
(No. 2) BILL [Lords].

Reported, with Amendments [Pro-
visional Orders confirmed] ; Report to lie
upon the Table, and to be printed.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-
morrow.

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION
(No. 3) BILL [Lords].

Reported, with Amendments [Pro-
visional Orders confirmed] ; Report to lie
upon the Table, and to be printed.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-
morrow.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE RAILWAY
BILL [Lords].

Reported, with Amendments ; Report
to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE TRAMWAYS
BILL [Lords].

Reported, without Amendment ; Re-
port to lie upon the Table, and to be
printed.

**BIRMINGHAM, NORTH WARWICK-
SHIRE, AND STRATFORD-UPON-
AVON RAILWAY BILL** [Lords].

Reported, with Amendments ; Report
to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE GRAND PIER
BILL [Lords].

Reported, without Amendment ; Re-
port to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time.

LONDON AND SOUTH-WESTERN
RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

Reported, with Amendments ; Report
to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

ROCHDALE CANAL BILL [Lords].

Reported, with an Amendments ; Re-
port to lie upon the Table, and to be
printed.

WORKINGTON CORPORATION BILL
[Lords].

Reported, with Amendments ; Report
to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PETITIONS.

BOARD OF EDUCATION BILL.

Petition from Huddersfield, for altera-
tion ; to lie upon the Table.

OUGHTON, MATILDA.

Petition of Matilda Oughton, for
redress of grievances ; to lie upon the
Table.

POOR LAW AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND)
ACT, 1845.

Petitions for alteration of Law ;—From
Monteith ;—Duffus ;—and, Kirkwall and
St. Ola ; to lie upon the Table.

POST OFFICE (REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE).

Return ordered, of Revenue and Expenditure of the Post Office for each

year from 1869-70 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 330, of Session 1898), and an Estimate of the same for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1899, in the following form:—

Year.	Revenue.				Expenditure.										Total Expenditure.	Percentage of total Expenditure to total Revenue.	Net Revenue.	Net Revenue, after deducting columns 5 and 6.
1	2	3	4	Purchase.	Sites and buildings.	Erection.	Superannuations and other non-effective charges.	Salaries, wages, &c.	Percentage of salaries, &c., due to total Revenue.	Conveyance of mails.	Percentage of conveyance of mails to total Revenue.	Packet service.	Other Expenditure.					
													Under Post Office Vote.	Under other Votes.				
13	14	15																

—(Mr. Hanbury.)

COUNTY COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIPS.

Return ordered, "showing the occupation of the parents of the winners of County Council scholarships during the past three years; the amount of each scholarship, and the period for which it was tenable; the name of the school in which the scholarship was won, and whether the school was a Voluntary or Board school; whether the scholar availed himself of the scholarship, or not; and whether he won other scholarships."

(Mr. Broudhurst.)

The Palace,

Malta,

July 18.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, conveying to me the Resolution of the House of Commons, thanking me for assistance given to the Soudan Expedition.

I am deeply grateful to the House for this high honour, and to you, Sir, for forwarding it to me.

I am, Sir,

Your obedt. servant,

FRANCIS GRENFELL,

General,

Commander-in-Chief, Malta.

Rt. Hon.

The Speaker.

QUESTIONS.

CRIMEAN VETERANS.

MR. BURT (Morpeth): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the case of Robert Stephenson, ex-corporal of the Coldstream Guards, now residing at Pegswood, near Morpeth; whether he is aware that Robert Stephenson served through the whole of the Crimean War, was wounded in that war, and holds the Crimean medal with four clasps, and also the medal given by the Sultan of Turkey; whether he can give the number of soldiers now on the pension list who served through the whole of the Crimean

H

SOUDAN EXPEDITION (THANKS OF THE HOUSE).

Mr. SPEAKER acquainted the House,—That he had received the following letters from Major General Lord Kitchener of Khartoum, G.C.B., K.C.M.G., and Lieutenant General Sir Francis Grenfell, G.C.B., G.C.M.G.:—

Glen Muick,

Ballater.

10th July, 1899.

Lord Kitchener of Khartoum presents his compliments to the Right Hon. the Speaker, and begs to acknowledge the receipt of the Vote of Thanks passed by the House of Commons.

On behalf of the troops engaged he desires to express their grateful thanks for the high honour that has thus been conferred upon them.

Lord Kitchener begs to assure the Speaker that he will not fail to communicate the Vote of Thanks to those mentioned.

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War and who hold two medals with four clasps ; whether he can state the grounds on which a pension has been refused to Mr. Stephenson ; and whether, considering his infirm health, some allowance can be made to him in his old age.

***THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover):** The statements in the first two paragraphs of the hon. Member's question are correct, except that there is no record of Stephenson having been wounded. He was discharged at his own request, after a service of less than four years. He had not qualified for an ordinary pension, and the special campaign pensions are limited to men of ten years' service and upwards. I regret, therefore, that nothing can be done for Stephenson. I cannot say how many pensioners have the same medals and clasps ; but pensions are granted for length of good service and not, except in cases of disablement, for medals and clasps.

COMPULSORY AGE OF RETIREMENT FROM GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, S.E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether all temporary messengers at the War Office will be discharged at sixty years instead of sixty-five, as in other Departments ; and whether these men will receive some compensation on their discharge.

***MR. WYNDHAM:** Owing to the scattered and inconvenient collection of houses in which the War Office is at present located it is essential that the messengers should be active and able-bodied. It has been found necessary to fix the age retirement of temporary messengers at sixty, which I may mention is the age at which the bulk of the civilian staff is now called upon to retire. All temporary messengers who have fifteen years' service as such receive a gratuity on discharge in addition to the Army pension they may be in receipt of. The retirement of temporary messengers at sixty will enable employment to be offered to a larger number of Army men who may not be in receipt of any pension and to whom employment is of first importance.

ARTILLERY PRACTICE AT OKEHAMPTON.

MR. LUTTRELL (Devonshire, Tavistock): I beg to ask the Under Secretary

of State for War whether, in respect to the convenience of those who may wish to spend their Bank Holiday on that part of Dartmoor adjoining Okehampton, he would ascertain whether it would be possible to have no artillery practice on the moor upon Monday, 7th August.

***MR. WYNDHAM:** It is not possible to promise that there shall be no practice on the August Bank Holiday, as, owing to the limited time which each battery has at Okehampton, it might be necessary, if the preceding days are misty, to use that day for practice. The matter must be left to the decision of the Officer Commanding on the spot ; but his attention will be called to the point.

THREE YEARS' SERVICE SYSTEM.

COMMANDER BETHELL (Yorkshire, E. R., Holderness): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if he will state how many men have entered the Army, other than the Guards, under the three years' service system ; and what proportion of the whole number of entries they form.

***MR. WYNDHAM:** The Army Order which authorised the enlistment of three-years' men in the infantry of the Line was issued in March, 1898. Since that date the number of men so enlisted has been 4,533, being in the proportion of 167 per 1,000 of the total number of recruits.

PRINCE RANJITSINGJI.

SIR SEYMOUR KING (Hull, Central): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India, why the Indian Government, contrary to the formal and legal settlement made with the assent of the Government by the Jam Sahib of Nowanagar in 1878, refuse to acknowledge the title of Kumar Shri Ranjitsingji Vibhaji, commonly known as Prince Ranjitsingji, to the Gadi of Nowanagar ; whether a memorial, in which the grounds of Prince Ranjitsingji's claim to the Gadi in accordance with law and Rajput custom, and the terms of the above-mentioned settlement are set forth, was addressed to the Secretary of State in 1898, with a petition for inquiry ; why no answer has been returned to the memorial ; and when one may be expected.

***THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex,**

Ealing) : I am not aware of any formal or legal settlement under which Kumar Ranjitsingji has any claim to the State of Nowanagar. But since the matter has formed the subject of a question I propose to state briefly the facts of the case. The late Jam was permitted by the Government of India to disinherit his son by a Mahomedan lady who was his natural heir. Having thus no natural heir, he selected Kumar Ranjitsingji as his son by adoption, and as his eventual successor on the express understanding that, if any of the Ranis should give birth to a son, the said Ranjitsingji should have no claim to succeed. In August, 1882, one of the recognised wives of the Jam, a Mahomedan lady, gave birth to a son, Kumar Jarwant Singh, and the Jam applied to the Government of India to recognise him as his natural heir and successor. The Government of India, after full consideration and inquiry, did so, and the Secretary of State confirmed their decision. From that time Kumar Jarwant Singh was treated as the heir, and on the death of the late Jam he succeeded his natural father. It is true that in 1899 I received, through the Government of India, a memorial from Kumar Ranjitsingji setting forth his claim and asking for an inquiry; and on March 16th, 1899, I addressed the Government of India, declining to reopen the decision passed by my predecessors, and requesting them to inform Kumar Ranjitsingji. I have ascertained that these orders were passed in due course on to the Government of Bombay, but that as yet, owing to Kumar Ranjitsingji having left India, they have not been formally communicated to him. This will now be done without delay.

BRITISH INDIAN PILGRIMS IN ARABIA.

MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Governments of Bombay, Bengal, and Madras have represented to the Viceroy of India the serious outrages by brigands to which British Indian pilgrims are subjected when travelling between Jeddah, Mecca, and Medina in Turkish Arabia; whether the Viceroy has requested the Imperial Government to adopt energetic measures for securing protection for British travellers in Arabia; what steps have been taken by the India Office to remedy the grievances brought

to notice; and whether, having regard to the facts that 30,000 British and Egyptian pilgrims annually visit the Mahomedan shrines, and that 80 per cent. of the transport service is carried on by British shipping firms, Her Majesty's Government will consider the expediency of stationing a gunboat at Jeddah, and increasing the number of armed cavasses at the Consulate for the purpose of accompanying the British caravans travelling in Arabia and protecting the pilgrims from murder, outrage, and robbery.

*LORD G. HAMILTON : The Government of India is, I believe, kept fully informed as to the conditions under which British Indian Mahomedans have to perform their pilgrimage. The Viceroy has made no recent representation to Her Majesty's Government on this subject; but, as was stated by the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs in this House on June 22nd, Her Majesty's Government have taken, and will continue to take, all steps in their power for the protection of Indian pilgrims. Since then £1,700 has been paid by the Turkish Government to certain British Indian subjects as a compensation for outrages committed by Bedouins during the pilgrimage. A British ship-of-war occasionally visits Jeddah, but I am not disposed to think that it would be advisable to adopt the measures suggested in the question. It should be remembered that any direct interference on the part of Her Majesty's Government with the Mecca pilgrimage would be distasteful to the Moslem community.

TRANSVAAL AFFAIRS.

MR. DRAGE (Derby) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, under the existing law in the Transvaal, no Roman Catholic may be employed by the Government in any capacity.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MR. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford) : My right hon. friend has asked me to answer, in his absence, the questions addressed to him to-day. Under the Grondwet the President and all members of the Executive Council and both Volksraads are required to be Protestants, and it is understood that under the law regulating

the appointment of officials this rule applies to all officials.

SIR ALFRED HICKMAN (Wolverhampton, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, according to the Grondwet or Constitution of the South African Republic, the only persons eligible for the Volksraad are members of the Nederduitsch Hervormde Church who have been enfranchised burghers for three years; and whether, under the franchise law recently proposed by the Government of that Republic, Uitlanders to be thereby enfranchised will be eligible without those qualifications.

MR. BRODRICK (for **Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN**): Under the Grondwet members of either Raad must be members of a Protestant Church. Members of the First Raad must have the full franchise, and Members of the Second Raad must have been enfranchised for the two immediately preceding years. These qualifications are not affected by the new franchise law.

THE PACIFIC CABLE.

MR. HOGAN (Tipperary, Mid): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether an agreement has now been arrived at on the points at issue with the Colonial Governments concerned in the proposed construction of the Pacific cable.

MR. BRODRICK (for **Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN**): I understand that an agreement as to the general lines has been arrived at, but we are still in communication with the Colonies on the subject.

CABLE COMMUNICATION WITH AUSTRALIA.

MR. HOGAN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has received any official confirmation of the report that the Eastern Extension Company has offered to lay a cable from South Africa to Australia; and, if so, whether he is in a position to state the precise terms of the offer.

MR. BRODRICK (for **Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN**): I am informed by the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company that they are prepared to provide cable communication between the Cape and Australia

without requiring any pecuniary assistance from either the Colonies or Her Majesty's Government, and that they will at once reduce the tariff to 4s. per word between Great Britain and Australia on receiving landing rights for their proposed new cable. I have no information as to the conditions, if any, attached to this offer.

BRITISH TRADE IN MOROCCO.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, N.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has received a petition signed by several of the leading British exporters to Morocco asking that a paid consul may be appointed to Mogador, as the interests of British traders are prejudicially affected by the existing arrangements; and whether the Government can see their way to make the appointment.

MR. BRODRICK: The petition referred to was received on the 21st inst. The question was fully considered in 1893, when it was decided that it would be more advantageous to British interests to establish a Consulate at Dar-al-Baida, and to appoint an unsalaried Vice-Consul at Mogador. It was believed that this arrangement had proved satisfactory, but Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier will now be consulted on the subject.

TRADERS' LOSSES IN MADAGASCAR.

MR. LAWRENCE (Liverpool, Abercrombie):—I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Foreign Office is cognisant of the losses sustained at Ranapass and Morumbe during the Franco-Hova wars on the 11th of March, 1893, and 18th of January, 1895, by Messrs. H. and J. McCubbin and others in their employ; whether losses amounting to £413 and 1,086 dollars respectively have been brought to the notice of the French Government, and with what result; and, having regard to the delay in obtaining compensation, Her Majesty's Government will continue to press the matter on the French Government.

MR. BRODRICK: The question of compensation for losses incurred during the war in Madagascar is being examined by the Comité du Contentieux of the French Colonial Office, but the examination is not yet concluded. Inquiries.

will be made of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris as to whether the claims referred to in the question are among those filed at the Embassy, but they do not appear to have been brought directly to the notice of the Foreign Office unless the second claim mentioned is identical with the claim of James Oman for 1,086 dollars on account of the pillage of his store at Ranapass on the 18th of June, 1895.

DELAGOA BAY ARBITRATION.

MR. BROOKFIELD (Sussex, Rye): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether some years ago the President of the Swiss Republic was appointed to arbitrate as to the claims of the bondholders of the Delagoa Bay Railway Company upon the Portuguese Government; whether the final replies to the Portuguese case were sent in before the 15th November, 1893, and the Portuguese answer before December, 1894; and how soon a final settlement of this question, affecting the interests of holders of £743,000 worth of stock, is likely to be announced.

MR. BRODRICK: The answers to the first two paragraphs are in the affirmative. But it should be explained that the presentation of the replies did not conclude the proceedings which were necessary before the Court could consider its judgment. As stated on the 10th instant, it is believed that the award will be given not later than October next.

MR. BROOKFIELD: What would be the effect if one of the arbitrators died before the award is given? Would it not render the whole proceedings nugatory?

MR. BRODRICK: The hon. Gentleman had better give notice of that.

BRITISH MISSIONARIES IN PERU.

ADMIRAL FIELD (Sussex, Eastbourne): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether there are six British missionaries resident in Cuzco, the capital of the ancient Inca Empire of Peru; and that these persons, who have committed no breach of Peruvian law, have nevertheless been refused Governmental protection in the event of their lives being endangered through religious fanaticism; whether the Peruvian Govern-

ment have communicated this decision to the British Attaché at Lima, who, without expostulation, forwarded the correspondence to the Foreign Office; and whether, under these circumstances, the Foreign Office will at once instruct the British Attaché at Lima to secure that constitutional protection to which these British subjects have every right under international law.

MR. BRODRICK: Her Majesty's Government are aware that there are some members of a missionary society resident at Cuzco, and that they were desirous of establishing a school there. It was alleged that their object was to give religious instruction. The Peruvian Government intimated that this could not be permitted, and that persistence would lead to their removal from Cuzco. It is not the case that this communication was received without expostulation, as Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, in acknowledging it, pointed out that while the opening of a school was a matter within the discretion of the local authorities, who were at liberty to grant or to withhold the necessary licence, the right of British subjects to reside in Peru on the same footing as native citizens was a matter of treaty right. No further complaints have been received, and Her Majesty's Minister may be confidently trusted to do all that is necessary for the protection of British subjects.

BRITISH SUBJECTS IN ARGENTINA.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea District): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that two British subjects, William Evans (the chairman) and David R. Evans (the secretary), of the Council of the Welsh settlers in the Chupat Valley in Patagonia, were in January last arrested by officers of the Argentine Government on a charge of high treason; whether he can inform the House what were the grounds for the said charge, and have they been tried; and, if so, before what court, and with what result; and, if not, are they still in custody; and whether he proposes to take any steps to protect British subjects in the Chupat Valley from such conduct of officers purporting to act under the authority of the Argentine Government.

MR. BRODRICK: The only information in our possession relative to the arrest of Messrs. W. and D. R. Evans was that communicated to the Foreign Office by the hon. Member. Her Majesty's Government are not aware whether the persons in question are British subjects or not; but if they were born in the colony they would be Argentine citizens according to Argentine law (at least while within the Republic). Her Majesty's Minister at Buenos Ayres has been instructed to report fully on the existing conditions of the settlement, and to endeavour to ensure to British settlers the most-favoured-nation treatment to which they are entitled by treaty. That report has, however, not yet been received.

THORNTON JUNCTION STATION.

MR. BIRRELL (Fifeshire, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he has received any Report from his inspector as to the present entrances to and ways from Thornton Junction Station in Fife; and, if so, whether the inspector has made any and what recommendations as to necessary alterations and improvements in these or other respects; and whether he will lay the Report upon the Table.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): Yes, Sir, the inspecting officer has reported, and a copy of his Report has been sent to each of the parties who communicated with the Board of Trade. The Department has also written to the company expressing a hope that they will carry out the inspecting officer's suggestions. These suggestions are too long to state within the limits of an answer to a question, but I shall be happy to lay a copy of the Report on the Table.

PRESTATYN SCHOOL BOARD POLL.

MR. GRIFFITH-BOSCAWEN (Kent, Tunbridge): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether he is aware that the poll recently taken at Prestatyn for the formation of a school board did not represent a majority of the ratepayers, and that it was taken upon a register admittedly faulty; whether there is already ample

school accommodation in the parish; and whether the Education Department has received, and will accede to, a petition, signed by a majority of the ratepayers of Prestatyn, asking that before the order for the formation of a school board is granted a fresh poll on the question may be taken.

MR. SAMUEL SMITH (Flintshire): Before the right hon. Gentleman answers the question, may I ask if he is aware that at the poll in question 265 persons voted out of a total register of 350 electors; that the voting was 138 for and 127 against; that the British schools have been ordered to be closed for two years, and—

***MR. SPEAKER:** Order, order! I must protest against this form of question being adopted for two reasons. In the first place it is not a question, but is a speech and argument, and in the next it is a statement of facts in anticipation of the answer of the Minister.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (Sir J. GORST, Cambridge University): I cannot verify the hon. Member's figures without notice, but certainly the majority which voted for the School Board did not constitute the majority of the ratepayers. The Committee of Council have no reason to believe that the register was faulty. There is ample school accommodation in the parish. A petition has been received as described in the question, but the Committee of Council have no grounds for going behind the decision of the ratepayers expressed in a deliberate and legal manner.

REORGANISATION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON (Oxford University): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether the Departmental Committee which is to consider the organisation of the Education Department is now constituted, or will be constituted and commence its labours as soon as the Board of Education Bill becomes law; and whether any provision is made, and what provision, for the representation of

secondary education upon the Committee, or whether the duties of the future Assistant-Secretary for Secondary Education are to be determined by persons representing elementary and technical education.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping): I beg at the same time to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education whether the Departmental Committee which has been appointed to consider the reorganisation of the Education Department and the Science and Art Department will have, if the Board of Education Bill becomes law, the further duty of organising the Secondary Education Department of the contemplated Education Office; and, if so, whether it is intended to add to this Committee some person or persons whose experience, added to that of the Assistant Secretaries of the Departments of Science and Art and for elementary education respectively, already placed on the Committee, will reflect the tripartite character of the new office; and whether he will communicate to the House, on the Report stage of the Board of Education Bill, the terms of reference and the full panel of the Committee.

SIR J. GORST said that the committee was appointed and was at work. The members had been selected as experts in office organisation not as representing particular branches of instruction. At present they were settling details of arrangements for discharging the functions which already appertained to the Committee of Council. The special duties of the Assistant Secretary who was to deal with that part of secondary education which was not under the Science and Art Department would be considered after the Board of Education Bill had become law. They would be finally decided on by the Board of Education, not by the departmental committee.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD: Will the Vice President answer the last paragraph on my question?

SIR J. GORST: I shall be happy to give the names of the Committee when the Report of the Board of the Education Bill is before the House.

THE VENTILATION OF THE HOUSE.

MR. STUART-WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether his attention has been called to the fact that during the late hot weather those charged with the ventilation of this House have failed to keep the temperature below 75 degrees, and whether in previous years it was found possible even in the hottest seasons to keep the temperature of the House at a much lower figure.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): I have given attention to this matter, and find that only on one of the extremely hot days last week the temperature in the House rose to 75 degrees. The records show a temperature on two days in 1896 and 1897 within one degree of the highest reading last week. Generally throughout this summer the temperature in the House has been kept uniformly several degrees lower than the shade temperature out of doors, and has not been in excess of the temperature secured in previous years.

MR. STUART-WORTLEY: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that yesterday, notwithstanding the low temperature outside, the temperature of the House was as high as 73 degrees?

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: I do not think my right hon. friend is quite correct. At one time the temperature of the House was 73 degrees, but I am given to understand that the temperature outside at that moment was very much the same.

LABOURERS IN THE ROYAL PARKS.

MR. PALMER (Reading): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether about 100 men employed in the Royal parks as gatekeepers and labourers have received a year's notice to leave; whether these men have been in the service of the Government for ten, fifteen, or more years, and are men of good character; whether there is any other reason for their discharge than that they are over sixty years of age, and will the Government grant these men, if of good character, any bonus or pension; and is it the intention of the Government to fill up their places; and, if so, by what class of men.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS : About thirty men will be discharged from the Royal Parks this year on account of age and infirmities ; but it is not proposed to discontinue the services of any men under sixty-five years of age unless, in the opinion of the Department, they are physically incapacitated for work. They will, however, on retirement, receive such grants as they may be entitled to ; and their places will be filled by men of similar class, the park-keepers or gate-keepers being selected, as usual, from Army or Navy pensioners.

BOARD OF EDUCATION BILL.

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE (Rochester) : I beg to ask Mr. Solicitor-General if he will state who will be the defendant in a trial before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, under Section 14 of The Endowed Schools Act, 1873, when the powers of the Charity Commission in respect of making education schemes have been transferred to the Board of Education under the Board of Education Bill.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir R. B. FINLAY, Inverness Burghs) : The Charity Commissioners are not required by any Statute to appear as respondents on any such appeal, but have been in the habit of doing so. Under the Bill as it now stands and subject to any special provision which may be made by the Order in Council under Section 2 (2), it may be expected that the Board of Education will appear as respondents on such appeals, except, possibly, in cases in which the question on the appeal is whether the endowment is an educational one.

SWINE FEVER.

MAJOR RASCH : I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he will again relax the swine fever regulations, in order that pigs may be allowed to shuck, following the precedent of last year.

***THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. LONG, Liverpool, West Derby) :** It would be premature for me to make any announcement on this subject, inasmuch as the conditions which I have to take into consideration vary from time to time. But I am in communication with the local authority respecting it, and my hon. and gallant

friend may be sure that their representations will receive my careful attention.

LEICESTER ANTI-VACCINATIONISTS.

MR. HAZELL (Leicester) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the present position of the Poor Law Guardians at Leicester ; whether he is aware that they have determined to go to prison rather than obey the mandamus ordering them to appoint a vaccination officer, which is now being obtained by the Local Government Board ; whether he is aware that forty-five guardians out of the forty-eight are expecting in consequence to be sent to prison almost immediately ; whether there is sufficient suitable accommodation for them as first-class misdemeanants in Leicester Gaol ; and, if not, to what prison is it proposed to consign them ; and whether, having regard to the peculiar circumstances of the case, and to the fact that six of the proposed prisoners are ladies, he will make such arrangements as are consistent with prison discipline to enable their detention to be as little irksome as possible.

***THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir. M. WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool) :** I cannot anticipate that the occasion contemplated will arise, and I can only say that it is, of course, my duty to see that proper accommodation is provided for any offenders who may be committed to prison in due course of law.

WEST RIDING PAUPER LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

LORD EDMUND TALBOT (Sussex, Chichester) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is the number of Roman Catholic inmates in the West Riding Pauper Lunatic Asylums ; and whether he is satisfied as to the provision made for their spiritual wants, and how such provision compares with that made in other similar asylums throughout the country.

***SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY :** There were at the beginning of the year 324 Roman Catholic patients in the West Riding Lunatic Asylums. I regret to say that the provision made for their spiritual wants is not what I consider satisfactory, and is far behind that made

by other authorities in various parts of the country. I have expressed myself strongly in this sense to the West Riding General Asylums Committee, but I have no power to compel them to alter their practice.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDITORS.

MR. HAZELL : I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether any regular system is adopted before the appointment of Local Government Board Auditors to ascertain whether they possess the requisite technical knowledge of local government law and principles of accountancy ; whether the clerks to Local Government Board auditors can be discharged by such auditors without any cause being shown ; and, if so, whether it is intended to take such steps as may be necessary to give to the clerks of such auditors the same protection as is given to relieving officers ; whether a case has recently been brought before the Local Government Board in which a Local Government Board auditor had for several years been appropriating the salary payable to his clerk, although the monthly receipts had been regularly signed by such clerk ; and whether it is intended to adopt any system by which protection can in future be afforded to such clerks.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. T. W. RUSSELL, Tyrone, S.) : In reply to the first paragraph of the question, the qualifications of the candidates for auditorships under the Local Government Board are carefully considered in all cases before an appointment is made, with a special view to their knowledge, experience, or capacity for the duties of the office. The case to which I presume the hon. Member refers in the third paragraph of the question occurred some few years ago. An auditor's clerk alleged that the auditor had not paid him his salary for some months, although the monthly receipts had been signed by the clerk. The auditor, however, alleged that the clerk had received money to a larger amount belonging to him, and that in this way the salary had been paid. An inquiry was held, but the evidence on this point was conflicting and unsatisfactory. Both the auditor and the clerk have ceased to hold office. The clerks to the auditors are appointed by the audi-

tors, and can be discharged by them without cause shown. They are not in any way officers of the Local Government Board, and I see no sufficient reason for altering the arrangements with regard to them.

SPLIT DUTIES IN THE GLASGOW POST OFFICE.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.) : I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, why the recommendation of the Tweedmouth Committee that an officer performing split duties should, during each twenty-four hours, enjoy nine clear unbroken hours at his own home, exclusive of a reasonable time for the journey from his own house to the office and from the office to his own house, is not being given effect to in the Parcel Post Department at Glasgow, where a sorting clerk is being called upon to perform a duty extending over a period of almost fifteen hours, viz., from 5.40 a.m. till 10.10 a.m. and 5 p.m. till 8.30 p.m. ; and whether such steps will be taken as will result in the grievance complained of being removed.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Preston) : The duty to which the hon. Member refers, and which is correctly described, was temporarily arranged for one week only, in order to admit of other officers being afforded absence on leave. It allowed an interval of nine hours and ten minutes off duty, but the officer who undertook it happens to live at some distance from the office, and his interval of rest at home, therefore, was about thirty minutes less than the usual period of nine hours. As the arrangement was only a temporary one, and the officer concerned before commencing the duty expressed himself as satisfied with it, the Postmaster-General does not consider it necessary to take any further steps in the matter.

IRISH RURAL AUXILIARY POSTMEN.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.) : I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether, in compliance with the recommendations of the Tweedmouth Committee, any concessions have been made to rural auxiliary postmen in Ireland ; and whether they have

received any increase of wages, annual leave, sick allowance, or Sunday pay; if not, will their case be considered.

MR. HANBURY: The concessions to rural auxiliary postmen recommended by the Tweedmouth Committee as regards wages, annual and sick leave, and Sunday pay, have been granted to all rural auxiliary postmen in Ireland, so far as can be ascertained.

POSTAL REGULATIONS—TEA SAMPLES.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether he is aware of the intention of the United States Government to reduce the weight of tea samples, which can be sent by post, from 8 oz. gross to 1 oz. on and after 1st August next, thereby hampering the tea trade between the United States and Great Britain, India, and Ceylon; whether this intended limit will be the weight of the tea net, or if it must include also the weight of the package containing the tea sample; and whether Her Majesty's Government have made any representations against these proposed restrictions on trade or any representations to the United States Government to induce them to modify them; and, if not, whether they will do so.

MR. HANBURY: Under the Postal Union Convention, to which both this country and the States are parties, articles like tea, subject to customs duty, are not entitled to be sent by post at all, and articles of saleable value are debarred from transmission by sample post. Sample packets of tea weighing over eight ounces are regarded here as of saleable value, and are not despatched in any mails from this country; but sample packets of tea not weighing over eight ounces are received by the United States Post Office, as by most other countries. In the United States, if these packets contain more than an ounce of tea, the duty to which they are liable is exacted. If they do not contain an ounce they are allowed to pass duty free, even though the wrappage makes the packet weigh more than one ounce. There does not appear to be any case for diplomatic representations to the Government of the United States.

MR. LOUGH: Can the right hon. Gentleman say whether any change has been made in the regulations?

MR. HANBURY: The Post Office have no knowledge of any change.

CANADIAN MAIL CONTRACT.

MR. HOGAN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether a new contract has been entered into for the carrying of the Canadian mails; and, if so, whether it involves any changes in the existing route.

MR. HANBURY: A telegram has been received from the Canadian Post Office to the effect that the Dominion Government has made a contract with Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Co., for the conveyance of mails to and from this country once a week in each direction by steamers plying between Avonmouth and Quebec, and touching at Queenstown. The final mails will be made up in London on Monday evenings for embarkation at Queens-town.

POLICE TREATMENT OF INJURED PERSONS.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON (Glasgow, Bridgeton): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the Scottish Local Government Board has yet considered the change of practice recently introduced in Glasgow in dealing with cases of debility and injury brought to the police offices and subsequently removed to the parochial hospital, whereby pauper patients are removed to that hospital without any certificate from the parochial medical officer of their fitness for removal, whether the criminal authorities have sanctioned the inspection of the private police books by the parochial officers; whether the removal of a moribund person on the data contained in these books, and without certificate from the parochial medical officer, would be held to satisfy the requirements of the Poor Law Act; and on whom, in case of mishap occurring in connection with a removal so conducted, would legal responsibility rest.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Bute-shire): The Local Government Board for Scotland are causing inquiries to be made into the subject-matter of the hon. Member's question.

but their inquiries are not yet completed. I shall be happy to reply if the hon. Member will again repeat his question nearer the end of the session.

TREATMENT OF FEMALE PRISONERS IN SCOTLAND.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON : I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether his attention has been called to the statement recently made by Dr. Naismith, at the meeting of the Ayr Town Council, that in consequence of the insufficient search of female prisoners confined in the police cells in that town, necessitated by the absence of any female warder, various cases had occurred in which women who had passed the night in those cells were found, when subsequently taken to prison, to have whisky bottles in their possession ; and whether, considering the danger which may arise to suicidal or homicidal prisoners from this inadequate search, and the indecency of leaving drunk and in many cases ailing females to the sole care of male warders, he would urge upon the police authorities of the larger towns in Scotland the propriety of providing a female warder and searcher at their police offices.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY : I am informed by the Chief Constable of Ayr that he has had no complaints from the Governor of Ayr Prison, as to bottles of whisky being found on prisoners sent from the Ayr Police Station. He thinks, however, that, in spite of the vigilance of the police officers in charge, who are steady, reliable men, it is possible that whisky bottles may occasionally be handed to prisoners by their friends on their way through the public streets from the police cells to the Court House. He also states that a female is employed at the Police Office, for the purpose of cleaning cells and offices, searching and attending to any female prisoners in custody, and her residence being opposite to the police office she attends when called day or night. The police surgeon is also in attendance when summoned by the police, either by day or night. The Secretary for Scotland is making further inquiry.

DEATH OF BERNARD O'NEIL OF MOTHERWELL.

MR. COLVILLE (Lanarkshire, N.E.) : I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if his attention has been drawn to the death, on

Thursday of last week, on the public highway between Motherwell and Hamilton, of Bernard O'Neil, steel-worker, Motherwell, under circumstances calling for searching inquiry ; is he aware that O'Neil was at the time of his death engaged in a dispute with Patrick Kelly, a bookmaker from Hamilton ; and whether, having regard to the circumstances of the case, it is the intention of the Government to amend the law respecting gambling on the boundaries of burghs in Scotland.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY : The case referred to has been fully inquired into by the Procurator-Fiscal, and was reported to Crown Counsel, who have instructed no proceedings. I concur with the decision of Crown Counsel, and having regard to the terms of the question, I think I ought to say that my information is such as in my opinion to exonerate Kelly. O'Neil's death occurred in circumstances which would not have been affected by such legislation as is suggested in the last paragraph of the question ; and the Government can give no undertaking in respect of such legislation.

ORPHAN HOMES OF SCOTLAND.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON : I beg to ask the Lord Advocate with respect to the 900 children of school age, inmates of the Orphan Homes of Scotland, who, in consequence of the refusal of the Kilmaccolm School Board to provide for their education, have been left without education since April last, whether he has yet received any reply from the School Board to the communication which, according to his statement on the 14th inst., had been addressed by the Department to the School Board on the subject ; and whether the Department has yet decided as to the steps to be taken to prevent this continued violation of the law as to compulsory education.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY : The Department cannot accept the assumption contained in the hon. Member's question that the School Board are responsible for the fact that the children referred to have been left without education since April last, when the authorities of the Orphan Homes suddenly ceased to give education to the children whom they have taken in charge. The Department are in correspondence with the School Board, and

received a reply from them on the 18th July to a letter addressed to them on the 8th. A further letter on the legal aspects of the question was necessary, and this was sent on the 24th July.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON : Can the right hon. Gentleman say when he is likely to be able to give us the replies ?

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY : I can only say that the matter is going on. The Department have been fully advised as to their legal position in the matter. It is a triangular affair, and I cannot say when it will be concluded.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON : I shall ask another question.

TYRONE POOR RATE COLLECTION.

MR. HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.) : I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has as yet approved of the scheme for the collection of poor rate in the County of Tyrone ; and, if so, whether his attention was called to a provision in the said scheme by which a former rate collector (David Dunbar) is to receive in future only £13 4s. 6d. yearly, as against his former remuneration of £35 0s. 11d., whilst another collector (William McFarland) is, by a transfer to him of Dunbar's former collection, to receive £46 17s., as against his former remuneration of £31 13s. 3d. ; and whether, in view of Section 115 (ii.) of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, which enacts that the scheme shall provide for the existing officers employed under it receiving remuneration substantially identical with that which they formerly received, he will take steps to set right this departure from the Act.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (MR. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central) : The Local Government Board have approved of the scheme referred to. According to this scheme, the former remuneration of David Dunbar was estimated at £14 18s. 4d. a year, and his future remuneration at £15 19s. 4d. The former remuneration of William McFarland was estimated at £53 13s. 3d., and his future remuneration at £60 2s. 3d. a year. A communication having been received by the Board from Mr. Dunbar stating that his former remuneration was

£35 0s. 11d. a year, the County Council have been informed that, if this be so, it will be necessary to alter the poundage rate fixed for this officer.

DOWNPATRICK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. M'CARTAN (Down, S.) : I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the resolution and protest against the Local Government Order of 15th May last, adopted by the Rural District Council of Downpatrick on the 8th instant, in which they call upon the Local Government Board to have the same rescinded ; and whether inquiry will be made into the whole matter.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR : On the 8th instant the Downpatrick Rural District Council passed a resolution objecting, in general terms, to the Order of 15th May, and asking that it should be rescinded. There is only one work of any magnitude in the rural district—namely, Downpatrick Water Supply, and the area of charge fixed for this work is not affected by the Order. There are, however, fourteen other special areas in this union for works of minor importance, and these areas have been consolidated by the Board's Order of the 15th May. I do not consider that this is a case in which any hardship has been inflicted by the Order, whereas the rescinding of it would involve the levying of fourteen special rates ; the opening and keeping of fourteen additional accounts in the county books ; and an amount of trouble in making detailed calculations which would possibly render necessary the appointment of an extra clerk in the office of the county secretary.

ROXBORO' ROAD SCHOOLS, LIMERICK.

MR. ARTHUR MOORE (London-derry) : I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether the Judicial Commissioners have yet agreed to a scheme for the schools in Roxboro' Road, Limerick ; whether the Education Commissioners had any right, in view of the Act of George III., to let these premises to their present occupant, and is this occupant bound by the terms of his letting to keep the premises in repair ; and whether any repairs have been executed since the report from Mr. Mitchell, architect to the Commissioners,

in which he stated they had not been repaired for many years.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The powers of the Commissioners with regard to the endowment of these schools expired at the end of 1897, and have not since been renewed. The Commissioners have not, therefore, agreed to a scheme. The reply to both inquiries contained in the second paragraph is, according to my opinion, in the affirmative. No repairs have been executed by the Commissioners, and I am not aware whether any have been carried out by the present tenant, the Rev. Mr. Gregg. He is bound, however, to keep the premises in good repair, and to give up the same in as good condition and repair as he received them.

IRISH CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD OFFICES.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Government have bought the offices of the Irish National Federation in Dublin for the Congested District Board; if so, what was the price, who deduced title, and to whom was the money paid.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The Government have agreed to purchase the house and premises, No. 24, Rutland Square, at present in the occupation of the body named, for the purpose of an extension of the offices of the Congested Districts Board, subject to a good title being shown. The price agreed upon is £1,300, but title has not yet been deduced or any of the purchase-money paid.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS — APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL JUDGE.

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether his attention has been called to Table XXXII. of the Judicial Statistics for 1897, Part II., which sets out the number of days on which the Judges of the Queen's Bench Division sat during the year; whether he is aware that no return is given for the other judges; and whether, before submitting a resolution for the appointment of a new judge, he will lay before the House a complete return in the same form as Table XXXII., as to the sittings of all the judges of the Supreme Court and of the Judicial

Members of the House of Lords and the Privy Council.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): This table was introduced by the Committee which revised the Civil Service Statistics some years ago. I am advised that there is great difficulty in ascertaining the sittings of the several judges of the Supreme Court during the year, but I am in communication with the Lord Chief Justice on the subject. It is proposed to substitute for Table XXXII. in the Judicial Statistics for 1897 a table showing the total number of days on which the Courts of the several divisions sat. The number of days on which each Chancery judge sat will be found in the Judicial Statistics, Table XV.

MR. COGHILL (Stoke-upon-Trent): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the proposal of the Government to appoint a new Judge, he is aware that on the South Wales Circuit the only work, from 7th July to 20th July, that could be found for the learned Judge of Assize was the releasing a little boy on his own recognisances; and whether one of the judges of the Queen's Bench Division could be transferred permanently to the Chancery Division.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have no information as to the facts mentioned in the first part of the question. I am informed that under the working of the circuit system there is occasional waste of judicial time, which it is almost impossible to avoid. With regard to the suggestion that one of the judges of the Queen's Bench Division should be transferred permanently to the Chancery Division, I am told that it is inexpedient and, indeed, impracticable to diminish the existing strength of the Queen's Bench Division.

THE STATUTES OF THE SESSION.

MR. BROADHURST: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will use his influence with the Stationery Department to secure an earlier issue to Members of the House of the bound copies of the Statutes of the session.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I believe it is impossible to bring this work out by the October 24 in consequence of the indexing.

which has to be done. Last year it was a little later; but I understand an effort will be made to secure punctuality this year.

EMPLOYMENT OF DISCHARGED SOLDIERS.

GENERAL RUSSELL (Cheltenham): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, whether, in view of the serious falling off of in the recruiting for the Army and the difficulty of finding the number of men voted by Parliament, the Government have come to any decision regarding the further employment of discharged soldiers of suitable acquirement and character in Government departments and offices.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The Government are desirous of carrying out as far as is practicable the recommendation of the Parliamentary Committee which last inquired into the subject referred to by my hon. and gallant friend.

BOARD OF EDUCATION BILL.

MR. TALBOT (Oxford University): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, whether he can now state when the Report on the Board of Education [Lords] Bill will be taken.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I cannot give my right hon. friend any definite answer to this question. Preference must necessarily be given to Bills which have still to go to the Lords. This Bill will not be taken on Thursday, and probably not until next week.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

MR. HAZELL: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he is aware that the recently established custom of placing in the Library daily the questions and answers in this House on foreign affairs is a great convenience to Members; and whether he can see his way to make all Ministers' answers thus immediately available.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have nothing to add to the answer I gave in February last to a similar question by the hon. Member for Haggerston. The arrangement suggested in the question would, no doubt, be in some respects convenient, but I do not think it possible to give it effective operation.

IRISH PRIVATE BILL PROCEDURE.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if his attention has been called to the abnormal cost to Ireland this session in the matter of Private Bill legislation; and whether, in view of the heavy expenditure that the existing system entails annually upon Ireland, the Government will favourably consider the question of dealing with the subject next session.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have no information as to the first paragraph of the hon. Baronet's question, and with regard to the second I cannot enter into any pledge with regard to legislation for next session upon any subject. With reference more particularly to Private Bill legislation for Ireland, I would suggest that surely it is desirable to await the issue of the experiment about to be carried out in Scotland before we attempt to extend the same system to other parts of the United Kingdom.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury what Votes in Supply the Government propose to take on Thursday next, and in what order.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: On Friday next I do not propose to take before the Colonial Vote any Votes which are likely to lead to any prolonged discussion, but I hope to get the Votes relating to the following:—Rates on Government Property, the Treasury, Privy Council, Charity Commission, Civil Service Commission, Exchequer and Audit Department, Friendly Societies, and Woods and Forests. These ought to take a very short time, and it is extremely desirable that the Government should get these Votes before the natural termination of Supply.

MR. LEWIS: Will the right hon. Gentleman except the Woods and Forests Vote?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have no reason to believe that that will lead to prolonged discussion.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): Will the right hon.

Gentleman reconsider his proposal as to the minor Votes, which, although small, still would occupy considerable time, in view of the fact that the Colonial Vote is of the very first consequence ?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: If I have a pledge that the Votes I have enumerated will be obtained after the Colonial Vote, it is a matter of indifference whether the Colonial Vote comes first or last.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): Will the right hon. Gentleman state some hour at which the Colonial Vote will be taken ?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir; I cannot state a definite hour, but I quite recognise what has fallen from the Leader of the Opposition, that the Colonial Vote is necessarily an important Vote, and that the House has a right to claim that the discussion upon it shall be taken at an hour not inconvenient.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): Has the right hon. Gentleman forgotten that he can get these small Votes next week under the closure ?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It is precisely for that reason I am anxious to take them next Friday.

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury when he proposes to proceed with the Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Bill; and, whether, having regard to the great importance of making better provision for these children without delay, an effort will be made to pass the Bill into Law this session. I beg, also, to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, having regard to the fact that the Shop Assistants (Seats) Bill has passed both Houses, and only requires a practically formal step in this House to enable the Bill to become an Act of Parliament, he will consent to give the few minutes necessary to carry out the intention of both Houses of Parliament.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I hope that both the Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Bill and the Shop Assistants (Seats) Bill will be passed before the end of the session.

MR. BROADHURST: When is it proposed to take the Resolution as to the appointment of an additional judge ?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Not in the course of the present week.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Can the right hon. Gentleman supplement the somewhat fragmentary information he has given us as to the course of business ?

MR. BALFOUR: It depends on the progress we make, but I think the chief business on Wednesday will be to advance a stage of the Telephones Bill, the Naval Works Bill, and the Niger Bill. No doubt there will be other Bills of a less important character, and I hope we shall be able to advance them also.

TRANSVAAL AFFAIRS. — RUMOURED RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT KRUGER.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (King's Lynn): I wish to ask as to the Papers of the Bloemfontein Conference, and whether the Government are able to confirm or otherwise the rumoured resignation of President Kruger ?

MR. BRODRICK (for Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN): I can give no information as to the latter part of my hon. friend's question. The Report of the Bloemfontein Conference will be delivered by the printers about five o'clock to-day, and copies will then be obtainable in the Vote Office.

BATHS AND WASHHOUSES ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

As amended, in the Committee, to be printed. (Bill 228.)

FIRE BRIGADES.

Report from the Select Committee, with Minutes of Evidence and an Appendix, brought up, and read [Inquiry not completed]; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 296.)

WATER SUPPLY BILL.

Order for Second Reading upon Thursday read, and discharged.

Bill withdrawn.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 17) BILL.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 6) BILL.

Without Amendment.

GODALMING CORPORATION WATER BILL.

WARRINGTON CORPORATION BILL.

LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY (NEW RAILWAYS) BILL.

SHEFFIELD CORPORATION MARKETS BILL.

With Amendments.

Amendments to—

GREAT YARMOUTH CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

Without Amendment.

HOME INDUSTRIES.

Bill for the better regulation of Home Industries, ordered to be brought in by Colonel Denny, Mr. John Burns, Sir Henry Howorth, and Mr. Alexander Cross.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I do protest against the practice of introducing Bills when there is no possibility of their being advanced any further. The only result is that they will be printed at the public expense. I am not at all sure that I ought not to divide the House, and but for taking up the time of the House at this period of the session, I should do so as a protest. We have given the Government all the time of the House for the rest of the session, and the introduction of these Bills is really an abuse of the rules of the House, while it imposes a burden which should not be laid on the public shoulders.

HOME INDUSTRIES BILL.

"For the better regulation of Home Industries," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Tuesday next, and to be printed. (Bill 289.)

PETTY CUSTOMS ABOLITION (SCOTLAND).

Bill to abolish Petty Customs in Scotland, and to make provision for levying a

rate in lieu thereof, ordered to be brought in by Captain Sinclair, Mr. Asquith, Mr. James Baillie, Mr. Cochrane, Mr. McKillop, Mr. Nicol, and Mr. Ure.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I protest also in this case, and for the same reason. I did hope my protest would have had some effect on Private Members at least.

PETTY CUSTOMS ABOLITION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To abolish petty customs in Scotland, and to make provision for levying a rate in lieu thereof," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, and to be printed. (Bill 290.)

RESERVE FORCES.

Bill to amend the law relating to the Reserve Forces, ordered to be brought in by MR. George Wyndham and Mr. Powell-Williams.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): Are we not to have any explanation of this Bill?

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (MR. WYNDHAM, Dover): Yes; I will give one. This is a Departmental Bill to effect two objects: first to relieve the taxpayer of a small and unnecessary charge; and secondly, to give a small indulgence to a small number of soldiers. Under Section 3 of the Reserve Forces Act the Reserve is defined as "forces within the United Kingdom"; consequently, under the Army Regulation Act it is laid down that every soldier who has served with the colours in India must be sent home at the public expense, even though he has formed ties in India which may require him to return by the next boat at his own expense. There are generally about ten such cases in the course of the year, and the Bill seeks to enable commanding officers to do legally that which they sometimes now do illegally.

RESERVE FORCES BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to the Reserve Forces," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, and to be printed. (Bill 291.)

PATRIOTIC FUND.

Bill to amend the Patriotic Fund Act, 1881, and the Patriotic Fund Act, 1886, ordered to be brought in by Mr. George Wyndham and Mr. Powell-Williams.

PATRIOTIC FUND BILL.

"To amend the Patriotic Fund Act, 1881, and the Patriotic Fund Act, 1886," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, and to be printed. (Bill 292.)

INDECENT ADVERTISEMENTS.

Bill to amend the Indecent Advertisements Act, 1889, and for other purposes, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Channing, Sir John Kennaway, and Mr. Samuel Smith.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I repeat my protest in this case. I did hope that hon. members would abstain from the practice of bringing in these Bills at the public expense.

INDECENT ADVERTISEMENTS BILL.

"To amend the Indecent Advertisements Act, 1889, and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 293.)

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS BILL.

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question [24th July], "That the Bill be now read the third time."

Question again proposed.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON (Glasgow, Bridgeton): The Bill as it now stands, no doubt, contains one or two provisions, which, if properly enforced, are calculated to put down adulteration, but, on the other hand, it contains much that is reactionary and bad. The discussion which had taken place on it must have convinced hon. Members that it belongs to that class of legislation which is known in America as Grainger's legislation. Its main points are offered ostensibly as a boon to the farmers, and its most thorough-going provision is that which prohibits the enrichment of margarine, with the object presumably of increasing the price of butter. But I venture to assert that the foreign producer of butter will benefit twice as much as the home

producer from any increase. In its present shape I do not think the Bill satisfies any section of the House, and it certainly does not satisfy agriculturists, for even the hon. Members for East Somerset and South Molton have ceased to regard it with a friendly eye. But it will benefit one class of Her Majesty's subjects, the lawyers. It will render worse confounded the confusion that already exists with respect to the adulteration laws. The first part of the Bill is aimed against the importation of four articles of food. The Customs are directed to take samples of such articles when imported, and if they are found to be adulterated provision is made for the prosecution of the importer. That, at first sight, seems a very desirable provision. But we have been told again and again that the first clause of the Bill only regularised a practice which had been in operation for several years. I personally have no doubt that what has been done in the past has been legal. In 1896-97 963 samples of imported food were taken by the Customs, 45 of which were found to be adulterated. In 1897-98 1,271 samples were taken, 25 of which were adulterated, and in the six months ended October, 1898, 612 samples were taken, of which only two were found to be adulterated and none doubtful. That shows that under the non-regularised system, which has been in force for the last two or three years, the importation of adulterated articles of food has been put a stop to, and that there is no necessity for the Bill, and that not much benefit is to be expected from the enactment of the first portion of it. The Customs officials are authorised to seize articles of food suspected to be adulterated, and a proviso is inserted to the effect that an article shall not be deemed to be adulterated by reason of the addition of preservative or colouring matter of such a nature or quantity as not to render it injurious to health. But what machinery is provided to enable the officials to judge whether the addition of some foreign substance is or is not injurious to health? A subsequent clause entitles the Board of Agriculture to declare what mixtures or foreign substances are injurious to health, and public analysts throughout the country are instructed to have regard to the decision of the Board on these points. But what machinery has the Board for deciding these important

questions? Let us suppose that the right hon. Gentleman, or his successor, declares that the admixture of a small amount of borax with butter is injurious to health. Analysts would have to act accordingly. Under Clause 3 of the Act of 1875 the addition to an article of food of any substance injurious to health is a serious crime, punishable in the first instance with a penalty of £50, and on a subsequent conviction subjecting the offender to six months' hard labour. But is it to be imagined for one moment that any person convicted on the evidence of an analyst acting on such an instruction from the Board of Agriculture as I have indicated would be subjected to any such penalty? Why, I believe that any judge would at once knock such evidence on the head. And while the Board of Agriculture may declare the addition of borax to butter to be injurious to health, the Bill actually takes no power to prevent the use of borax as a preservative for ham or bacon, although the Irish Members pressed the Government to adopt such a step. Analysts, as defined by the Food and Drugs Act, do not include the chemistry department of Somerset House, and those officials would continue to declare their views of adulteration independently of any instructions that might be issued by the Board of Agriculture. All this lands the law into a state of inextricable confusion, and there is no standard on which we can fall back. For years traders have been most anxious to have extended to the Food and Drugs Act the provision of the Margarine Act, which declares that an invoice shall be regarded as a warranty. When the Bill was introduced it was so drafted that we were under the impression that an invoice was to be taken as a warranty, but on the Second Reading we were undeceived, and we learnt for the first time from the right hon. Gentleman that it was not in his intention that an invoice should be considered to be a warranty. In Committee upstairs an Amendment was inserted in the measure constituting an invoice a warranty, but on Report, at an hour of the morning when nothing could be made known to the public through the ordinary channels of information, the decision of the Committee was reversed. In this matter the traders had great cause to complain of their treatment, for although the right hon. Gentlemen said he

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would leave the matter in the hands of the House, he made the strongest possible speech in favour of reversing the decision of the Committee, and his learned colleague, the Solicitor-General, followed that up with another speech equally strong. When the right hon. Gentleman took this action he was himself introducing an Amendment which would have done away with all danger of constituting an invoice a warranty. It was intended to enable persons giving these warranties to be prosecuted in a court having jurisdiction in a place where the offence was committed. The right hon. Gentleman brought forward a MSS. Amendment for the purpose, and this illustrates the slovenly manner in which the Debates have been conducted. One of the two offences in the Food and Drugs Act most severely dealt with is the false labelling of an article by the manufacturer, and under Clause 27 of the Act of 1875 the penalty for such an offence is £20. Now, nothing could have been more logical and proper than to allow the MSS. Amendment to apply to this clause, and had that been done, while it might not have adequately protected the retail vendor of the article, it would have enabled the manufacturer to be prosecuted. But that was not done, and as we had no opportunity of studying the words of the Amendment, it has been carried in a less satisfactory form than it would otherwise have assumed. The Bill alters the law as to warranties and invoices, and nothing is done to remedy the grievances so long complained of. It has been held that the label on a can of syrup with the words "guaranteed as pure," is not a warranty, and that a running milk contract containing a clause that the milk shall be pure milk is not a sufficient warranty, unless a separate guarantee is sent with each consignment. It has been held that a printed warranty is not a written warranty. Now all of these things might have been cleared up if any desire had been shown by the right hon. Gentleman to reach the adulterator and punish him. I will give another example of the unfortunate way in which traders have been treated in the consideration of this Bill. Under the Margarine Act an invoice is a warranty subject to certain safeguards. I put down an Amendment upstairs, to provide that it should be a good plea in a prosecution for infringement of the law that the provisions of the Margarine Act had been complied with. The right hon.

Gentleman put down an exactly similar one, and on the faith of that I withdrew mine. He certainly formally moved it, but in the face of a small amount of opposition he withdrew it at once, and, of course, left me in the lurch. I tried to raise the question on Report, but you, Sir, considered that I was not in order. There is, again, the provision in the Bill which inflicts the penalty of imprisonment for a third offence, although the first two offences may have been of a purely technical character, and have been committed by persons other than the defendant and against his orders. I will not discuss this or the clause prohibiting the sale of margarine containing more than a certain percentage of butter fat, although it will deprive the inmates of our poorhouses and metropolitan asylums of some of the small portion of butter they have been allowed in the past. Let me give one other instance of this Grainger legislation. It was proposed to make it obligatory to place upon each can of condensed separated milk the words "Bad for babies." But the right hon. Gentleman objected, not because he had not the fullest sympathy with the proposal, but because the addition of those words would necessitate the label being printed in too small letters. [Mr. LONG: No, no.] That is certainly what I understood. And, in passing, I should like to remind the right hon. Gentleman that there is another article quite as bad for babies as condensed milk, and that is separated uncondensed milk, which, unlike the former, is not made more nutritious by the addition of sugar. As the right hon. Gentleman, however, distinctly promised consideration of this matter, I would call his attention to the fact that pure milk from the cow is about as bad for the baby as anything could be, and it is necessary to water it down, unless harm is to be done to the infant. What, however, we want to strike at is the manufactured article. It is more pleasant for me to turn now to the features of the Bill which make improvements in the law of the country. The Amendment to Clause 19, introduced at the instance of the hon. and gallant Member for Rye, is a distinct improvement, and is calculated to do more to check adulteration than a thousand prosecutions by Customs officials. In Clauses 2 and 3 Amendments of great importance were introduced, imposing on the Local Government Board the same duties with regard to adulteration in

the case of various foods as those imposed upon the Minister of Agriculture with regard to all agricultural products. In those clauses provision is made for the appointment of public analysts of approved competency by the local authorities, and if the local authorities do not put this provision into force the Local Government Board can send down their own inspectors and put the law in motion at the expense of the local authorities. With regard to the taking of samples, an extremely moderate standard is fixed; one sample being taken for every 5,000 inhabitants. That involves only one visit at one shop every five years for the purpose of taking a sample. The returns of 1882 show that even with that moderate standard the local authorities did not enforce the Act at all, whilst many others only took half-a-dozen samples for the purpose of keeping up appearances. The Local Government Board under this Bill have power to compel the local authorities to carry out the Adulteration Act and to increase the standard upon which they work. Do they propose to raise the standard and to compel the local authorities to carry out the Food and Drugs Act? In the absence of the smallest sign from the representative of the Local Government Board that it is the intention of that Department to enforce these powers, I do not expect much in the way of suppression of adulteration from them. But this I do not mind, because the present occupants of the Local Government Board may not always be there, and it may be that in days to come we shall have a President of that Department who will take some little interest in attempting to put down the adulteration of food in this country by getting at the wholesale offender. If they had gone against the wholesale adulterators in the past and stopped these adulterated goods at the port of entry I believe by this time they would have prevented adulteration to a very large extent. One of the gravest blots on this Bill is that no attempt has been made to put down adulteration by attacking it at the fountain-head. This Bill does not deal with the whole question of food—it only deals with about four articles—and I do not intend to divide the House upon it at this stage, but I do say that if the measure, instead of being sent upstairs, had been thrashed out by a Committee of the whole House, it would no doubt have shared the fate of many

other Bills that have been lost this session in the massacre of the innocents.

*SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): I am glad that the hon. Member does not intend to divide the House at this stage, and I agree very much with his criticism upon this Bill, because, after all, he has probably given more years to the consideration of this question than many others of us have given months. He has been engaged in considering the laws of adulteration for the last 20 years, and therefore speaks with authority in this House. He has pointed out that the Bill has many defects, and with that I agree; but, on this occasion, I should prefer to deal with some of the advantages we shall derive from it, if it passes. We shall get better inspection at the ports of entry, which will be of great advantage in putting down adulteration of those articles which are imported from abroad. What is wanted—as my hon. friend has said—is to get at the large adulterators, and to prevent the small retail trader coming under the heavy penalties provided by this Bill. The small traders will find that, in a great many cases, they will be liable to very severe penalties and punishments, and the one fault that I have to find with the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill is that he has not protected them more than they have been by the measure as it stands at present. I think we might have given the small trader greater protection under the warrant and invoice clause, and I hope that even now my right hon. friend will be able to see his way to do something more in that respect before the Bill passes into law. In my opinion the best part of the Bill is the third clause, which practically insists on the law being enforced all over the country. The great difficulty in the past has been that it has been permissive, and that while in one district the law was enforced, in another it was not. The result was, that however active the Local Government Board might have been, they have always been unable to get the local authorities of the country to enforce the law universally. That will no longer exist, and in this respect the most important step has been taken since the Adulteration Acts have been passed. This Bill insists that this Act shall be carried out in a proper manner, and if the local authority does not put it into force the Board of Agri-

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culture or the Local Government Board can step into the locality with its own inspectors and take samples, and charge the local authorities with the cost of the duties which they have been compelled to undertake. Such a course must inevitably put down a great deal of the adulteration of food. We shall have in the future two authorities looking into this matter—the Local Government Board and the Board of Agriculture. I tried all I could to prevent there being two authorities, because I do not believe in the efficacy of two authorities. I would rather see this Bill governed by one. I would even rather have had the Board of Agriculture by itself. The Local Government Board will I fear do very little and the Board of Agriculture a very great deal, and I hope that in the future this Act will pass entirely under the direction of the Board which shows most energy. I do not think the Board of Agriculture is an ideal body for the work, but while the present President is in power I am quite certain he will do everything to make the Bill a success. I hope that, looking at it in that light, we shall have from it a larger amount of benefit than we have had from any previous Act of the same kind, and I hope before it finally becomes law the right hon. Gentleman will see his way to lessen, if possible, the oppressiveness of the Bill upon the small shopkeeper. It is a serious matter that many of those small traders—sometimes widows, and sometimes men who are in entire ignorance of what they are selling—that they should be made the victims of the administration of this law. I think that there ought to be in every case full opportunity for a man to clear himself by referring to producers of the article which he has sold, so that he may not by any technicality in the Act be made to suffer when he is not the real cause of the crime of which he has been convicted. I hope some amelioration in that position will yet be brought about before the Bill is placed upon the Statute Book.

SIR J. FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.): I have only one word to say upon the point mentioned by the hon. Gentleman opposite. I voted against my right hon. friend when, the other day, the Bill was amended with respect to the invoice warranty. I did so because I had very prominently in my mind the great number of small dealers in my own constituency, and I cannot but feel for them in the difficulties

in which they have been placed in regard to the prosecutions for the breach of this Act, when they are innocent offenders. How can a small dealer know whether the ingredients of the food he sells exactly correspond with the requirements of the law? I know small shops where small portions of provisions are prepared for the factory people, and I cannot but ask myself how these poor people are to be responsible for what they have sold. My right hon. friend says he will do what he can to render the invoice a safeguard to the small trader, and to provide that the invoice shall have the force of a guarantee. The small trader cannot insist upon a legal guarantee from the person of whom he buys, but an invoice specifying that the article he buys is in conformity with the Act would safeguard him.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton): I am very unwilling to trench upon the time of the House, but I have not hitherto taken any part in the discussion of the Bill. I desire to make one general observation and one or two special ones. The general observation I desire to make is, that there seems to be a tone of exaggeration as to the evil which it is attempted to meet. The figures brought forward by the hon. Baronet show that the evil of adulteration is not by any means an increasing one, but a rapidly diminishing one, and that it is a very difficult thing to say what adulteration is. It does not follow that because a certain ingredient is added to a given article it makes the article any worse in quality. I live amongst a large population which, I suppose, uses a great deal of what is called margarine, but I have never heard a single complaint of people being "done." I think this is another case of that kind of legislation which is generally characterised, when it is passed by the Party sitting on this side of the House, as grandmotherly legislation. It seems to be taken for granted that all buyers are fools and quite incapable of judging the articles they buy. Throughout the Discussion as well as in the general constitution of this Bill, there appears to be a distinct exaggeration as to the value of butter. I had almost begun to think that butter was something sacred, and that there was a kind of law of the Medes and Persians that butter, and butter only, should be used. Butter is only a fat, and I cannot see why there should be anything parti-

cularly sacred about it. I have occasion to live a good deal in the country, and I am bound to tell the agricultural Members that I find great difficulty in getting good butter. Whether agriculturists cannot make it or won't make it I don't know, but the fact remains that the only butter worth buying is the Kiel butter. I would warn hon. Members that they are giving margarine a great puff, because people will conclude that an article which they are so much afraid of, and which cannot be distinguished from butter, must be as good as butter. When I listened to the Debate on the clause relating to imprisonment I felt that a very serious feature had been added to the Bill. I would ask the right hon. Gentleman to consider again the wording of that clause. The smaller people are to be punished. That is the spirit of the Bill in these clauses. By the clause relating to the admixture of butter with margarine the House has taken a new and dangerous departure in dictating to the people what their food shall be.

*SIR F. S. POWELL (Wigan): I should not be doing my duty to the small shopkeepers in my constituency if I did not press upon the right hon. Gentleman the necessity of guarding the innocent small traders—a class which suffered greatly when the decision was arrived at as regards the invoice and warranty. These persons are not skilled in chemistry; they have no desire to be guilty of any fraud; they are very much in the hands of the wholesale dealer. I hope my right hon. friend will see his way to give them greater security than the Bill at present affords. I am not sure that severe penalties always accomplish their object. I believe myself that more moderate measures are the most effective. This Bill will do great good, and the public health and safety will be increased by it, but I thought it my duty to point out this blot in the Bill.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea District): I desire to support the appeal which has been made in favour of greater protection being given to the innocent retail dealer. I think the cause of the retail dealer has somewhat suffered from the form of the Amendment which was adopted by the Committee upstairs, and

by the introduction of the word "invoice." I do not know exactly what "invoice" means; there may be an invoice which in effect amounts to a warranty, and there may be invoices which do not amount to warranties. The right hon. Gentleman might consider whether after the word "warranty" in the clause words to this effect could not be added: "Or any document describing the value, substance, and quality of the article in question in such terms as to amount to a sale by description, within the meaning of the Sale of Goods Act, 1893." If these words are added the position of the retail dealer will be precisely the same in a criminal as in a civil court. There is a real and substantial injustice in drawing a distinction between the rights of the retail dealer in a civil and in a criminal court. These words that I have suggested would not in any way vitiate the general object which the law intended to enforce, but would do substantial justice to the class of whom I am speaking.

MR. J. H. JOHNSTONE (Sussex, Horsham): We have heard a great deal about the small shopkeeper and the innocent retailer, but where does the public come in? They are the people for whom we are legislating, and they are the people to be protected, even though the small shopkeeper may unfortunately suffer some injury—I cannot call it "wrong"—in our efforts to protect the public. With regard to this celebrated Clause 8, is it pure benevolence on the part of manufacturers of margarine which makes them desirous of mixing a more expensive product with it? Or have they the ulterior motive of desiring to sell the mixture at a price exceeding margarine price and approaching, if not equalling, butter price? The reason for this clause is perfectly clear. You must, in the interests of honest trading, draw the line between margarine and butter, and it is necessary that that line should be a very broad one. What I really rose for was to remind the right hon. Gentleman of an undertaking he gave the other night with regard to the important question of labelling separated milk. An assurance was given that he would consider the question in the course of the passage of the Bill through the other House. The difficulty appeared to be that the labels would have to be very small,

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but I put it to the right hon. Gentleman that it cannot surely be said to pass the wit of man to devise some means of carrying into effect an object which he desires quite as much as I do myself.

MR. LOWLES (Shoreditch, Haggerston): If the last speaker had as intimate an acquaintance with the small shopkeepers as I have, he would have a very much higher opinion of them than he apparently now possesses. In the constituency in the East of London which I represent, there are thousands of small shopkeepers who struggle hard for their livelihood, and I strongly deprecate the suggestion that they are anything but honest men. It is only a fair suggestion that the wholesale houses who supply the commodity in which these people deal should be held responsible instead of the small shopkeepers, who have to sell a great many articles for the contents of which they are not in the least responsible. If it was decided that an invoice should be taken as a warranty, no reasonable cause of complaint would exist. It is extremely hard and unfair that the whole burden of defending a prosecution should rest with these unfortunate traders. I also think the Bill is a little too drastic in regard to the imprisonment clause. Its effect will undoubtedly be to punish small traders and allow the large dealers to escape. Generally speaking, the Bill has been accepted as a perfectly satisfactory measure with these two exceptions, and I hope opportunity will be taken before the Bill passes into law to remedy these defects.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, South): I do not think this discussion has been altogether fruitless. I am glad my hon. friend on this side of the House does not think it necessary to go to a Division, because, although there are many objections to be taken to some of the provisions, I think certain clauses will prove of considerable value in checking adulteration and fraud. Upon Clause 8, I should like to say that I do not think the hon. Gentleman is right in saying that the opposition to that clause comes from the margarine manufacturers. This is the only clause in the Bill in which it is proposed to prohibit the sale of an article which is not poisonous and is perfectly fit for human consumption. It is an article which is

very agreeable to the taste, and yet it is to be prohibited altogether. That is an exceptional piece of legislation which does not reflect credit upon this House. We ought to regard this question from the point of view of the public, and I am inclined to reject the decision of the Committee upstairs. In my opinion we should have greater security against fraud if we attacked the *fons et origo mali*, the wholesale dealer, rather than the retailer. I still join in the appeal made to the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Agriculture, when this Bill goes to another place, to use his influence to improve the wording of the clause to protect the innocent retailer. I do not wish to disparage the zeal or judgment, or the skill, knowledge, and tact shown by the right hon. Gentleman in charge of this Bill, for I think we are all indebted to him for the way in which he has addressed his mind to the subject before the House. My objection is to bringing the Board of Agriculture into the question at all. The Bill is primarily a Bill to protect the consumer from fraud, and I cannot see any reason for the introduction of the Board of Agriculture, which can only be interested in preventing or diminishing competition. If the intention is to diminish competition, then the proposal is not fit for this House to adopt, for it savours of the nature of Protection. I think it would have been much better if we had devoted our attention entirely to adulteration, for the Board of Agriculture creates a double authority. The question has been put to the Government whether the Local Government Board intend to use their powers under this Act to appoint inspectors, or whether they intend to leave that duty to the Board of Agriculture. No answer was given to that question, and I am afraid we must conclude that the Local Government Board will leave this duty to the Board of Agriculture. It is said that the local authorities have not efficiently discharged their duties in the past, and that now we are going to supervise them and stimulate them into action; but the function of dealing with the local authorities is one which belongs naturally to the Local Government Board, because that body is already the supervisor of the local authorities, and it is in touch with them. It has a medical staff which is already concerned with matters of public health, and I submit that we should

find it easier to deal with the local authorities if we were to continue this function in the hands of the Local Government Board rather than place it in the hands of the Board of Agriculture, which is a new authority, with which the local authorities are not acquainted. I regret the decision which the House has come to to create a second authority in this matter, and I cannot but think that serious inconvenience will result from the substitution of the Agricultural Board for the Local Government Board. However, although the Bill is undoubtedly open to these criticisms, I agree that it does contain some good provisions, which may turn out to be a real protection to the poor consumer, who may get a better article than he has done hitherto.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. LONG, Liverpool, West Derby): I desire to thank my hon. friend for the statement which he has just made; for, notwithstanding the criticism which has been made of this proposal, on the whole there seems to be a general opinion that the Bill contains much which is good, and that it will effect a desirable change in the condition of things existing at the present time. The right hon. Gentleman opposite has reverted to the old argument that the Board of Agriculture ought not to be the authority for some of these purposes. Upon this subject I desire to repeat the reply I made at a very much earlier stage of the Bill. It is not necessary now to discuss whether the Local Government Board or the Board of Agriculture is the most suitable Department; but I am bound to remind the right hon. Gentleman that if the Board of Agriculture has been improperly introduced into this Departmental work, it is not with us that the responsibility rests. The first time steps were taken in order to deal with the adulteration of certain articles in connection with the main and staple articles of food and dairy produce it was done by the Government with which the right hon. Gentleman opposite was associated, and with the assent and upon the initiation of the late Leader of the Opposition; and, with regard to those duties we shall have to carry out, we have only put upon a permanent basis the system commenced under the Government of the right hon. Gentleman, not only with the approval, but on the initiation, of

the then Leader of the House, the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouthshire. Whatever suspicions hon. Gentlemen opposite may have in connection with hon. Members on this side of the House, I am sure they will not associate any views of that kind with the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouthshire. I would rather hope that the fears expressed by the right hon. Gentleman as to the way in which the Board of Agriculture will carry out their duty may turn out to be unfounded, and that we shall act in the future as in the past, from no desire to bolster up home products, but to secure fair and open competition, and from a desire to see that the pure article at home shall compete against a pure article from abroad, and that its value shall not be depreciated by the adulterated article, which ought to be sold as an adulterated article and not as something very different. Some of the remarks which have been made have deserved the descriptions given to them by the right hon. Gentleman in reference to their main points. It has been pointed out that a third offence under Clause 8 may lead to imprisonment, and the same clause also provides that an invoice may, like a warranty, be pleaded in defence. I think it would be quite unnecessary for me to go into the reasons which led us to take this course. I have already admitted that it is a form of legislation which we have adopted with regret, and we have adopted it only upon the recommendation of the Committee. From the evidence of experts of all kinds we have been convinced that, unless some power of this kind is introduced into the Bill, there will be a continuation of that kind of fraud which has resulted in the production of a particular article of which I believe 99 per cent. has been sold as a pure article when it is not pure at all. The right hon. Gentleman said the effect of this clause would be to make it impossible to improve that article and sell it in a better form. I contest that argument, because the evidence from all sources goes to show that the very best article which the public wish to buy as margarine can be produced under this Clause 8, and there is nothing in it which will interfere with the production of a first class article. The hon. Member for Bolton says he has made a new discovery—that the effect of this Bill is going to in-

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crease and popularise the sale of margarine. Those are opinions which I expressed long ago, and there is no new discovery about it. The hon. Member asked me to give particular attention to the fact that this Bill would increase the sale of margarine, but that is the view I have expressed from the very beginning. It is because I believe it will lead to the selling of margarine for what it is, and not for what it is not, that I have included in the Bill the powers which it now contains. With regard to imprisonment, I told the House there were precedents for our proposal, and I justified the reasons for the clause. So far from this being an additional penalty of the poor man as compared with the rich man, it is precisely the reverse. It is well known that the wealthy producer despises penalties which consist solely of fines, for the wealthy man who has determined to make and sell a fraudulent article can go on manufacturing it with impunity and does not mind paying the fine a dozen times over. It is only when he knows that he runs the risk of imprisonment that he will realise, whether he wishes it or not, that in the long run it is the best policy to be honest, and that he had better abandon practices which otherwise he is not apparently inclined to give up. As regards the question of invoices and warranty, we have as a matter of fact made a very material change in the operation of the law in regard to wholesale dealers. In the first place I propose on behalf of the Government to have inserted in another place a provision which will give power to take samples at the place of delivery. That will be an effective change in the law. The penalty at present for giving a false warranty is £20. We propose to raise it for the third offence to £100, with power also to inflict imprisonment. That ought to have a very material effect in preventing the giving of false warranties. We have also decided to carry out the suggestion of the hon. Member for Durham. At the present time if a retailer is prosecuted for selling an adulterated article, and he succeeds in shifting the responsibility on to the wholesaler on the ground that he received a false warranty the wholesaler must be followed to the place where he is to be found, in order to institute a prosecution. The change we propose is that the local authorities may be able to institute a prosecution against the giver of a false warranty in

the locality where the proceedings against the retailer were commenced. The effect of that will, of course, be far-reaching. We further propose to introduce another Amendment into the Bill. At present if a retailer claims he is innocent and produces a warranty from the wholesale dealer it rests with him to show that the giver of the warranty is the guilty person. That seems unfair, and we propose that the *onus probandi* shall be thrown on the accused person, and not on the retailer, who ought not to be called upon to prove not only his own innocence but the guilt of somebody else. Nothing else remains to be referred to except the question of warranty and invoice. I entirely associate myself with the remarks which have been made on both sides of the House in reference to the small dealer. I must, however, demur to the words which fell from one of my hon. friends who suggested that an imputation had been cast upon the small dealer. I am confident none of us for a moment intended to cast the smallest reflection on the small dealers as a body. I believe after a somewhat exhaustive examination of this question that the great majority of small dealers will not be affected by this legislation. I believe the majority of them are honest men, anxious to carry out their business honestly. The effect of the Amendment introduced in Committee upstairs was that any person accused of an offence under the Adulteration Acts, and the Margarine Act, should, on producing an invoice, be entitled to be discharged. The opinion of experienced men was, however, against the proposal. The local authorities themselves were unanimously against it, the judicial authorities who were consulted held that it would afford a means of escape, and make the law inoperative; and the medical officers of health took the same view. The day after this point was decided on the Report stage I received letters from retail dealers approving of the decision arrived at, and one retail dealer stated that no honest men who took the trouble to look after his own affairs had any reason to fear it. At the same time I acknowledge there is a practical difficulty connected with this question. The words introduced in Committee making an invoice the same value as a warranty would make it impossible to administer Clause 19, but the speeches in support of that change were directed to a

totally different object. The speeches made at the deputations which waited upon me with reference to the point all went in a different direction. The hon. Member for Swansea suggested that an invoice should be made a warranty, but there is plenty of doubt as to whether there should or should not be a distinction between different kinds of invoices. It is suggested that an invoice which contains special words which appear to indicate that the seller guarantees the article he sells shall be held to be a warranty; but there has been diversity of opinion among those who administer the law. I have, however, been very much impressed by what I have heard during these Debates. I have listened to the helpful suggestions of the hon. Member for Swansea, and I hope that before the Bill reaches the Committee stage in another place, we may be able to have words introduced which will clear up any doubt as to the legitimate use of an invoice. On the other hand I am not prepared, while we are engaged in tightening up in other respects legislation with regard to this particular kind of offence, to introduce a provision which would enable a person to escape even though he committed fraud in a wholesale way. I hope that admission will be sufficient to meet the suggestion made to me. The only other matter to which I need refer is the description on the labels on tins of preserved milk, about which the hon. Member for North West Sussex is very anxious. I would remind my hon. friend that any declaration so definite as that such food is unfitted for infants should be very cautiously considered. There is a very great difference of opinion as to whether this food can be described as unfitted for infants. But I am not an authority on the feeding of infants, and I am not prepared to say what is the best advice that should be given to parents charged with this responsible duty. If, however, any form of words can be devised which will not ask Parliament to make a declaration which it would be undesirable to make—because Parliament ought not to give a declaration of that kind its authority unless we are quite certain it will not be contested—I shall be very glad, as I promised my hon. friend, to insert the necessary Amendment. The right hon. Gentleman has referred to the staff of the Local Government Board, which is to carry out this Bill. I am not

aware that there is any particular difficulty in the matter. At the present time, as the right hon. Gentleman knows, in Departments like the Local Government Board and the Board of Agriculture, no matter how careful we may be, a great deal of work must run on lines which at times may overlap. The work of one Department is often the work of the other; but there will be no difficulty whatever in carrying out the particular duties imposed by this Bill. The right hon. Gentleman asked what staff we were going to appoint. That is a matter to which it is impossible to refer at present; but I think the right hon. Gentleman and the House may rely on it that the powers conferred by this Bill will not be used to harass either small or large traders, or to interfere in any illegitimate way with any industry. But, at the same time, we have a solid determination to make use of the new powers which we have asked Parliament to give us to put down fraud, to put an end to illegitimate trade, and to secure for the public what it is entitled to have—a supply of pure unadulterated articles of food, and that prices shall not be charged for these articles to which, on their merits, they are not entitled. Those are the lines on which we hope to work, and I believe that the Local Government Board and the Board of Agriculture will, if Parliament sees fit to pass this Bill subject to the changes I have indicated, be able to effect very material alterations.

Question put, and agreed.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

NAVAL WORKS BILL.

SECOND READING.

Order for the Second Reading read.

THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): This Bill, the Second Reading of which I now move, provides for the continuation of the construction of works sanctioned under the previous Naval Works Act. The total cost of the works included in the Bill is estimated to be £23,600,000, and on account of this the House is now asked to authorize

Mr. Long.

an expenditure of £3,100,000 in addition to the sum already provided, and to give borrowing powers to the extent of £3,161,000. The Bill in its form follows closely the previous Acts, and raises I think no new questions of principle, nor no large questions of policy. The only change in regard to its form is that whereas previous Bills were in intention and appearance Bills for one year, this is a Bill providing for expenditure over two years. The House will remember that in the Bill of 1897 we took a larger sum of money than we were able to spend in that financial year, and that sum of money has lasted up to the present time. We have found great difficulty in estimating some works, especially in the early stages. But I hope that by taking a sum for two years we shall approximate more closely our estimate to our expenditure. There is another incidental advantage in this from an administrative point of view, upon which I can hardly lay too much stress, and that is that the work of the directing staff of the Civil Engineer-in-Chief's Department and the Directors of the Works Department will not be interrupted next year by the preparation of a new Bill, and they will be able to give their uninterrupted attention to carrying out these enormous works. I hope that the Memorandum attached to the Bill and the schedule which forms part of it will dispense me from making any detailed examination of the old proposals repeated from previous years. If any information is required in regard to points of detail in regard to these matters I shall be happy to give them at the Committee stage. I think that the information in the Memorandum and schedule is so full that I need not trouble the House with details at this time. I imagine the House will be more anxious that I should give them some account of the progress made with the existing works, and some explanation of the new proposals now put before them for the first time. As regards the progress of the existing works, the House is well aware of our failure to spend the sum we had anticipated in the previous year. That failure, as I have said, and as I hope the House will note, is by no means to be taken as indicating absolutely the progress we have made in these works themselves. Because, in the first place, there is a great amount of preliminary work to be done by the contractors, and expendi-

ture to be incurred by them for plant for contractors' work, as distinguished from permanent work, upon which we make them no payment at all, but in regard to which they recoup themselves from the price they get for the whole work when it is finished. In the second place, payments are necessarily always one or two months in arrear, and in the case of foreign stations it is sometimes more than that, because the accounts when they come in have to be carefully examined and audited before any payments are made upon them. In the third place, in regard to two works—Gibraltar and Portland—these had been begun by the Admiralty before the contracts were taken for them and accordingly there was handed over to the contractors the whole of our own plant and machinery, and we have had to recoup ourselves for them from the money earned by the contractors. And, lastly, there are the reserves that we take by instalments as the contractor earns them in case of any failure to fulfil their contracts. In the case of the last two items the amount of work already done is £300,000. While laying stress on these facts, and drawing attention again to the fact that our expenditure is not to be taken as an absolute test of the progress of the works, I admit that the progress in the initial stages has been less rapid than we had hoped for, or anticipated. That is partly due to changes in policy with regard to some of these works. In the case of the Gibraltar dockyard extension, and in regard to the Hong Kong extension, owing to changes that had been found desirable, there had been practically substituted for the original schemes entirely new and very much larger schemes of defence, which could not reasonably or possibly be expected to be completed in the same time. There are other cases, as for instance, that of the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth; and in the case of some of the barracks and other works we have found unexpected difficulties in obtaining the land we require, and the process of acquisition whether by purchase or otherwise has been disappointingly slow. The House must also bear in mind the fact that a vast amount of preliminary work has to be done after the approval of the House has been given to the scheme before we are ready to begin. Any Member of the House who has not had the opportunity which I, myself, have had,

of looking at the preparations in the office of my advisers, can have no conception of the number of plans and drawings that have to be prepared in order to the prosecution of these vast works. Again, in regard to the estimates, there is one more difficulty on which I must touch. The House will realise that it is customary and indeed necessary to allow to the contractors who undertake these works a very large latitude as to the order in which they begin to prosecute them, provided only that they complete them within the contract time. As some portions of the work are much more expensive than other portions, it depends to a large extent on the fancy or the plans of the contractor which one he will undertake first, and he, therefore, cannot know what the expenditure on any given portion may be. Last year, in order to check our own calculations, we invited the contractors to inform us what their own estimates were, and the expenditure on the works they had in hand, and their estimates were at least quite as wide of the mark as our own. The House will, therefore, see the difficulties with which I had to deal. In the whole of the works on which I made inquiry, the contractors estimated that they would spend just double what they did spend; while in one case—one of the largest of our contractors—his expenditure was only a fifth of what he gave us as likely to be spent. In spite of these facts, however, I am glad to say that during the last financial year there was a great improvement in regard to the correspondence between the estimates and expenditure, and as regards progress with the works. We expended during the last financial year a million and a quarter, as against an estimate of a million and a-half; and the progress of the works themselves has been satisfactory. Thus, in the case of the great harbour of Portsmouth, it was finished in so far as concerns the provision of defence against a torpedo attack in April last; and although, of course, much work still remains to be done there in bringing the whole breakwater up to the section it will be when completed, and in placing the gates and lights on the breakwater we have already secured the use and advantage of that great military harbour. I need only remind the House that the whole of the mobilised fleet assembled there the other day. So, in

regard to the works at Gibraltar: the extension of the Admiralty mole was completed to the low water level last September, and it is capable of protecting that part of the harbour against a torpedo attack. I may illustrate that by the grounding of one of our own torpedo boats when practising a night attack against the harbour. The detached mole is finished to low-water level, and the lesser mole will be finished by March in the year after, and by that time the whole new harbour at Gibraltar will be completed as regards defence against a torpedo attack. The House may possibly wish to know whether there is any reason to anticipate any trouble from the strike which has occurred at these works, owing to the paragraphs which have appeared in the Press in regard to it. I am glad to be able to say that the information I have received is to the effect that the workmen are already returning to work, and that there is not likely to be any serious trouble on that account. These two works, with Dover, are the most urgent of all the works included in the old Bill. The progress at Dover has not been very great in respect of permanent works. Considerable work has been done in laying out the dockyard, preparing docks, and in railway connections which are a necessary preliminary to the vigorous prosecution of that work. In regard to the dockyard extension at Keyham, about a fourth of the whole is already completed. The expenditure on that work last year was very nearly equal to the whole money spent on it in the preceding years, showing that as the work progresses the expenditure goes up by leaps and bounds. As to the Gibraltar dockyard extension scheme, great progress has been made with the first dock, which, according to the Bill of 1895, was to have been the only dock. It will be ready for use in three years from December last. I hope the House will not think it necessary for me to go through all the works in the schedule, but I may say, in general terms, that with three exceptions the contracts are now let for all the works included in the previous Acts. These exceptions are the barracks at Sheerness, which had to be abandoned for reasons already explained, connected with the insanitary condition of the only available site. The other two contracts are for the Hong Kong Extension and the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth. In both of

these cases tenders will, I hope, be called for during the present year, and in both of them under subsidiary contracts a considerable extent of preliminary work has been done. That preliminary work has been of special importance at Hong Kong, because it has, to a great extent enabled the authorities to erect the shops for preparing the machinery which the contractors will have to employ. I pass from this review of the progress of existing works, only noting in doing so that the three works already completed have each been completed within the scheduled time and the scheduled cost. I now pass to the new works included in this Bill, and I do not wish to minimise their magnitude, involving as they do an expenditure of six millions sterling beyond that already provided, but I hope the House will not cavil at the amount asked for, but will seek to satisfy itself that the money is necessary, that the works to which it is to be applied have been well thought out, and that the country will get full value for the expenditure it is asked to undertake. The new expenditure of three millions falls under two classes. The first, composed of additions to existing estimates, is mainly required to make better provision for the health and comfort of the officers and men of the fleet, in connection with the hospitals and barracks now being built. But by far the most important section of this new expenditure is that required for the construction of five new docks, which now appear in the Bill for the first time. The House, of course, will understand that in these works the Admiralty has no inducement of its own. It is in these matters merely the handmaiden to the fleet. Dock accommodation is not less necessary to our naval supremacy than the provision of ships and men, and the efficiency of the fleet now depends to a far greater degree on the provision of docking facilities than at any previous time. In olden times it was possible to make many repairs with the most primitive agents, but the transition from wooden to iron ships made such a thing absolutely impossible, and iron ships are much more liable to accident, and require greater inspection, and unless they are frequently docked and cleaned lose a material portion of the speed for which the nation has paid. During the past ten years the total tonnage of ships built and building for the Navy increased from 864,000 to 1,800,000 tons. In the

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same period the size of ships has shown no less progress. In 1889 the largest battleship, the "Trafalgar," was 345 feet long, and the largest cruiser, the "Northumberland," 400 feet long. To-day we are building battleships 400 feet long, and we have cruisers in commission 500 feet in length. The facts as regards individual squadrons are no less striking. The Mediterranean Squadron ten years ago had a tonnage of 96,000 tons; now it amounts to 205,000 tons. The Channel Squadron has risen in the same period from 37,000 tons to 155,000 tons; the China Squadron has very nearly trebled, and the squadrons at the Cape, North America, and the West Indies have almost exactly doubled. And during the ten years while this enormous increase in the fleet has been in progress the only docks that have been constructed are one at Malta and two at Portsmouth. The House will not therefore wonder that further accommodation is needed. We propose to build new docks at the places mentioned in the schedule, and one of the proposed new docks will be at one of the great dépôts of the fleet, Chatham. Seven first-class battleships and eleven first-class cruisers are allotted to this dépôt. Yet there is no dock at Chatham that can accommodate the "Powerful" or the "Terrible," or any of the first-class cruisers now building, and there is only one dock available for the large first-class battleships. That accommodation is quite inadequate either for the repairs of the fleet in time of peace, or to the situation that would be created in time of war, when the want of accommodation might prejudice our success or deprive us of victory. We propose, therefore, to build a new first-class dock at Chatham which will take the largest cruisers and the largest battleships. The next point is Malta. Malta is and must remain the most important of all our foreign stations. There is only one dock there which will take either the "Majestic" class, the "Royal Sovereign" class, or any of the battleships now building. The deficiency of dock accommodation there has already caused great inconvenience, and has been reported on by successive Naval Commanders-in-Chief. We propose to construct two docks at Malta—one a double dock and the other a shorter dock. It is more economical to build the two together, because the machinery which would be necessary for one would equally serve for the two.

We have also arranged for an extension of the dockyard by acquiring certain property adjacent to it. The length of the longer dock will be 790 ft. and of the shorter dock 550 ft. The breadth of both will be 94 ft. and the depth 35 ft. 6 in. The other proposed docks will be at Bermuda and the Cape. On the North American and West Indian Stations we have the largest interests, both in floating trade and in colonies, and these interests call for adequate protection in time of war. At present there is one first-class dock at Halifax which is not an Admiralty dock, but of which the Admiralty have prior rights of user, and there is a small floating dock at Bermuda. We now propose to add a new first-class floating dock at Bermuda. We carried out a survey to see whether it would be possible to construct a graving dock at Bermuda; but the engineering difficulties were found to be so great, that the cost of the work was prohibitive. The floating dock will float in a basin of 30 acres in extent, and a depth of 33 ft., and it will have a certain amount of wharf-wall which will greatly facilitate repairs. At the present time the dock at Bermuda will not take the flagship on the station, or the large cruisers; and if anything happened to any of the vessels in the West Indies it would have to go to Halifax, about 2,000 miles, to be repaired. In this connection I might give the House some striking facts as to the result of Lord Rodney's great victory in 1782. After the battle nine battleships sailed for England unrepaired. Four foundered, with a loss of 2,000 men; one was abandoned sinking; one put into Halifax; one put in at Jamaica; and only two reached England. Therefore, in view of the greater difficulty of repairing modern vessels except in properly constructed docks, the House will see that there would be great danger in leaving the dock accommodation on that station in its present ineffective condition. Another proposal, the importance of which will not be, I think, denied, is for the dockyard extension at the Cape. The importance of the Cape is patent to every one. It is a great calling place for our trade in time of peace, and a much larger volume of trade would, probably, pass there in war time. It is an important coaling station, and we already possess a small establishment at Simon's Bay, but with no dock. There is a dock belonging to the Harbour

Commissioners at Cape Town, but that dock will only take the older first-class cruisers when lightened, and is unable to take a battleship, or cruisers of the "Powerful" and "Diadem" class. The harbour is very crowded in time of peace, and is likely to be much more crowded in time of war; and we think that in such a position it is necessary to have a dock of our own. We propose to construct a dock 750 ft. long, 95 ft. wide, and 30 ft. deep, at Simon's Bay. In order that that dock may be safe from storms, protection for the dock entrance is necessary; and accordingly breakwaters will have to be constructed. The attention of the Board of Admiralty at the same time was called to the very unsatisfactory condition of the present coaling arrangements at Cape Town. If a spell of bad weather were to coincide with the arrival of a fleet in need of coal, several days might elapse before the coaling could be effected. We have therefore thought it advisable to take advantage of the protective works necessary to the dock to make a basin 28 acres in extent and 30 ft. in depth, and to provide in that wharfage accommodation, so that the colliers may come and unload alongside, and so that coal for the fleet may be stored. I ought not to part with this question of the Cape dock without recognising the assistance which we have received from the Cape Government in regard to the matter. The Cape Government has passed two Acts—one for the purpose of giving the Admiralty the necessary powers of control over the waters of the naval portion of the port, and over the foreshore; and another facilitating the purchase by the Admiralty of the land on the shore necessary for the protection of the dockyards. But for this assistance the works would be much more costly than they are now likely to prove. The last proposal we make is for a dock at Hong Kong. Recent developments have very much increased the importance of Hong Kong. Except for one dock at Kau-Lung there is no dock on British territory which will take the four largest ships on the China station nearer than Sydney, and none nearer than Bombay which would take the next two. There would also be considerable difficulty in docking the ships at Kau-Lung in consequence of the nature of the currents there. When proposals were first made for this dockyard extension a dock was

not included in the scheme; but a portion of the extension was reserved for a dock if it became necessary. Having regard to the fact that Kau-Lung is large enough for the largest cruisers, and that the space in the Hong Kong Dockyard is very valuable, it is proposed to build only a shorter dock—550 ft. long 95 ft. wide, and 30 ft. deep.

*LORD CHARLES BERESFORD (York): Is that at Kau-Lung?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: No, at Hong Kong. The House will see that these proposals are the result of a careful survey of the needs of the fleet, and of the forces which we are obliged to maintain in different waters. I hope, therefore, that the House will feel convinced that this scheme, though large, is not larger than is required, and that it will consent to read the Bill a second time, without any hostile manifestation.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."—(*Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*)

SIR U. KAY - SHUTTLEWORTH (Lancashire, Clitheroe): The hon. Gentleman in the commencement of his speech made very full admissions as to the delay which, to the great regret of us all, has overtaken many of the works, but the explanation does not really cover the extent and the gravity of the disappointment which has been suffered with respect to the progress of these very important works. These delays have had two results. The first was shortness of expenditure, which in the years 1896-97 and 1897-98 amounted to £4,000,000 less than the estimate. The second serious consequence is the change in the dates of completion. The dates given in the present Bill are very different from the dates given two years ago, or, in some cases, three years ago. I find that the Gibraltar extension and the deepening of the harbour and approaches are five years later.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: That is due to the fact that the dredgers

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have been diverted to more urgent dredging work elsewhere.

SIR U. KAY-SHUTTLEWORTH : I accept that explanation. I also find that such works as the Gibraltar Enclosed Harbour, the commercial mole, the Channel Naval Barracks, and the Keyham Naval Barracks were three years later ; that the Portland and Dover Harbours have been postponed two years, and that other works have been postponed one year. The next topic to which I will allude is the great increase in the total estimated cost of works under this Bill. This is partly due to the numerous additions which have been made to the expenditure on items which already existed in the Naval Works Acts of previous years, amounting altogether to £309,852 ; but it is mainly due to entirely new works proposed under the Bill. I think the House is bound to take notice of the progressive increase which has taken place in expenditure under successive Naval Works Bills. The Bill of 1895, for which I and my colleague were responsible, contemplated an expenditure under nine millions sterling, though I admit that as it was impossible at that time to accurately estimate the cost of some of the great works, particularly the Keyham Extension and the Dover Harbour, the estimates given in that Bill were under the mark. The Bill of 1896 proposed an expenditure of more than 14 millions, the Bill of 1897 an expenditure of 20½ millions, while the present Bill proposes an expenditure of 23, or rather 23½ millions, so that we have an increase of 9½ millions since 1896. There is no disguising the fact that this enormous increase of expenditure is due to the need for additional dockyards and dockyard establishments in various parts of the world owing to the increase in the fleet and the building of larger ships, but it is serious to contemplate what all this must lead to. Seeing that the construction of several new docks is proposed, I would ask whether it would not be better to adopt the policy of obtaining the right of temporarily using docks of sufficient dimensions, in private hands, at places where at present we have no docks of our own, and thereby avoid the cost of keeping up a dockyard establishment, which would be necessary if an Admiralty

dock is built. The Admiralty have experienced the difficulty of keeping a large staff of superior artisans engaged in dockyard establishments at foreign stations employed throughout the year ; and at Malta, where such a state of things has existed, the experiment of building a ship was tried. I do not, however, think that that experiment will be repeated, for it was very expensive, and by no means encouraging. There is one other point in respect of Bermuda Dock which I should like to raise. The Civil Lord has told us that there is to be a floating dock. It is not, I suppose, proposed to put that charge upon the Bill. I presume that that will be rather a subject for the Estimates.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN : It is included in the Estimates.

SIR U. KAY-SHUTTLEWORTH : Our experience of floating docks is that they are not of a permanent character, and therefore it would not have been wise to put the charge upon the Bill. There is only one more point on which I wish to say a word, and that is the fact that this is a Bill for two years. I am opposed to this arrangement, because Parliamentary control for one year is deliberately abolished.

ADMIRAL FIELD (Sussex, Eastbourne) : Hear, hear !

SIR U. KAY-SHUTTLEWORTH : I suppose the hon. and gallant Gentleman would be delighted to abolish all Parliamentary control ?

ADMIRAL FIELD : Over many things.

SIR U. KAY-SHUTTLEWORTH : Some hon. Members desire that there should be as little control as possible by Members—save themselves—over the War Office and the Admiralty, but that is not the view of the average Member of the House, for whom I speak. I do not know that there has ever been a case in which this House has been asked to exercise its control once in two years instead

of once every year. It is a very peculiar arrangement, and is contrary to our traditions and convictions. The only comfort the economist can carry to his soul is that during the coming year there will be no opportunity for the hon. Gentleman to propose further great works involving an expenditure of several millions of money.

ADMIRAL FIELD: I rejoice that the Bill provides for a period of two years' expenditure, so that the Admiralty will not for that space of time be called called upon to fight the subject over again. The right hon. Gentleman opposite seemed disposed to criticise the Admiralty because they were unable to subsidise a greater number of docks. The Admiralty have already subsidised a dock at Halifax, and they have agreed to subsidise a dock at Auckland in New Zealand. In the colonies it is not difficult to invite an enterprising individual to risk his money in constructing docks under a Government guarantee; but it would be absurd to depend upon voluntary help for docks at Malta or Simon's Bay, and therefore we must look to the Imperial Government. I think this modest Bill deserves the warm support of every hon. Member. I listened with much attention and not a little admiration to the speech of the Civil Lord. He led us to contemplate the difficulties that naval men have had to encounter. I think he has made out a most excellent argument why the present Government, as well as the two previous Governments, should be impeached for having neglected their duties for so long a time. That I know is the view entertained by naval men. It is a matter of gratification that the Admiralty and the Government have at last wakened up to the necessity of providing these docks for the accommodation of the fleet, though I am not going to give them any special credit for their action in the matter. I rather lament that the question was not dealt with ten or twelve years ago. I might go even farther back, for all Governments have been supine and negligent in the discharge of their duty in these matters. It is only within the last two years that the situation has forced itself upon the Admiralty, and that they have come forward to ask the Government for the necessary money. We are thankful that they have at last rea-

lised the necessity of asking Parliament to grant these large amounts of money. They are not amounts that any sensible man can cavil at; they are all absolutely essential to the efficiency of the Navy and to control at sea. I must express my regret, however, that there has been so much, no doubt necessary, delay in making progress with some of the works mentioned in the schedule. However, I shall give the Bill my warm and hearty commendation.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, South) said he desired to ask a question which no doubt his right hon. friend the First Lord or some other representative of the Admiralty would be able to answer. It related to Dover harbour. The works which were being constructed there by the Harbour Board and by the Admiralty had greatly increased the difficulty of approaching Dover Pier in rough weather. What he wanted to know was when they might expect these difficulties to disappear; and whether they might fairly expect that the works on the harbour would be so far advanced by the time the rough weather came in the late autumn or at the beginning of next year, that these serious drawbacks to the Channel service would be removed.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Norfolk, Lynn Regis): I should like to accentuate what my right hon. friend opposite has said with regard to the two years' system of Parliamentary control. I think it is an unfortunate innovation that Her Majesty's Ministers should ask for authority for the expenditure of large sums of money for a period of two years. The essence of our financial arrangements lies in our annual system. If we are not to have an annual system of finance, then we had better hand over a lump sum to the Government to spend as they like, with, perhaps, the audit of the Auditor-General at the end of the expenditure. The only control that is of use is the annual control. As to the Bill itself, I should like to say a word or two with regard to Gibraltar. The expenditure on Gibraltar is something like 4½ millions. I have always thought that that was a little excessive. I am perfectly prepared to admit that Gibraltar is one of the most important strategic situations in the world for this

Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth.

country. For years we have been trying to persuade successive Governments to make one dockyard at Gibraltar. Now you are going to make three docks, which I certainly think is one more than necessary. I should be satisfied with one, I should be well satisfied with two, but I am sorry that you propose three. With regard to Gibraltar, I have seen accounts which give me great fears that the method which has been pursued by the contractors is one that is foredoomed to failure. There are peculiarities at the bottom, fissures in the rocks, and so forth, which are very difficult to deal with. I should like to have an assurance that my information is incorrect, as, otherwise, in addition to the sum now asked for, we may have to expend another £1,000,000 or £2,000,000 in getting the Gibraltar works properly completed.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Which method of construction do you refer to?

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: The method being now pursued; I am not in a position to go into details, but I understand it is a question of water oozing through the bottom on which the works are being constructed. With regard to Keyham, I am told that there also there is great risk of the present method of conducting the work not succeeding, and I should like some assurance with regard to that. As to Portsmouth, I am told that the dredging works have had the result of so increasing the tide that it is very difficult for men-of-war to lie there with safety; they have to be constantly ready to let go an anchor in case they break away from their moorings. Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman will tell us whether he proposes to adopt the suggestion which has been made for lessening the tide, viz., of making another opening into the harbour on the western side. I very much regret to find that in this large expenditure no provision whatever is made for the extremely important and comparatively cheap work of a breakwater at Scilly. Half-a-million would construct a breakwater which would make Scilly, which is a most important point, lying half-way between Cape Clear and Ushant, a perfectly safe anchorage and an admirable coaling station. At present the

swell of the Atlantic flows in there, summer and winter, day and night, so that you cannot use it as a coaling station; but this breakwater would make it one of the most useful stations we could have.

*SIR EDWARD GOURLEY (Sunderland): I hold that this proposed expenditure is more than is required. It is totally unnecessary that such a large sum should be spent on barracks. The proper place for seamen is on board their ships, but there is a system of bringing home after a short time what are designated "reliefs" for rest in barracks. The Government have taken advantage of the present popularity of the Navy in the country to incur unnecessary expenditure. Another portion of expenditure which I think is in a large measure useless, is that for a floating dock at Bermuda. What to my mind ought to be done is to attach to each of the squadrons a repairing ship, on which there should be the necessary appliances for repairing vessels at sea.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. GOSCHEN, St. George's, Hanover Square): How could you clean the bottom of a ship at sea?

*SIR EDWARD GOURLEY: I am not speaking of the bottom of a ship; that is another question altogether. With regard to Gibraltar, I understand that a portion of the expenditure is to be in defence works. What description of defence is meant? Does it mean defence applicable to the protection of ships?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I am afraid the hon. Member has been led into error by the word I used. The defence against torpedoes will probably be completed within a short time. There are no defences in the sense of guns and fortifications provided for in this Bill at all.

*SIR EDWARD GOURLEY: I should like to ask with regard to the docks, what is to be the nature of the appliances? If you are going to construct docks without the necessary modern appliances or

making repairs, the expenditure will in a large measure be thrown away. Take the question of new ships. The new ships are built under cover——

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN : The hon. Member is mistaken. Some of the old roofs still remain, but in most cases they have been removed from the building sheds.

***SIR EDWARD GOURLEY :** What I wish to press upon the Admiralty is that with this increased dock expenditure in place of having, as is the case now, to order ships home for heavy repairs to hull and machinery, you ought to make provision for modern appliances for the purpose of executing the heavy repairs which will necessarily be required in connection with our large vessels.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN : If the hon. Member will look at the memorandum attached to the Bill he will see that in all cases provision is made for the necessary machinery, ships, &c., for working the docks.

***SIR J. COLOMB (Great Yarmouth) :** With reference to the remarks of the hon. Member for Sunderland, you cannot help having proper docks, and it is no use having docks unless you have proper machinery and proper appliances, so that when a ship does come in for repairs the work may be completed. The right hon. Gentleman who spoke just now, from the front Opposition bench, expressed considerable regret that the policy of subsidising somebody to give you these docks was not followed. I was surprised at that line being taken, because it is all very fine to say, "This is a cheap way of getting a dock; let us give some encouragement to private enterprise to build a dock provided it gives us the right to use that dock"; but at a naval base it is a dangerous policy to pursue. For instance, take Esquimalt, where this very plan was followed. A subsidy was given, and it looked a very nice arrangement. But what happened? An admiral brought his ship into the harbour, and found he had no control over the harbour, and actually had to pay damages for giving certain orders to pick up certain moorings. It is, therefore, no use subsidising docks unless you have absolute control of the waters in the

neighbourhood. With regard to the motion before the House, I think it shows, on the face of it, that the matter has been thoroughly well thought out before being brought forward, and everybody who has studied the plans which have been put in the Library must have been convinced that there has never been a Bill brought forward which so clearly bore the stamp of great forethought, careful calculation, and adaptation to a settled policy. A Minister has two duties to perform in bringing a proposal before the House. He has to make it clear to the House, and he also has to make it perfectly clear to the "man in the street." It is because that was done that I so greatly admire the speech of my hon. friend in introducing the Bill. I thank him for the admission that there is no money put down in this Bill for Wei-hai-wei. I am glad that at present the Admiralty are standing firm, and that we are not to be precipitately launched into any permanent naval expenditure for Wei-hai-wei as has been done by the military authorities in proposing military barracks.

MR. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.): I am afraid the confidence of the hon. and gallant Member is hardly justified by our experience in the past with regard to these Bills. From what we have already heard it is pretty certain that before another Naval Works Bill is introduced we shall have considerable expenditure proposed by the Government in regard to Wei-hai-wei. I am not capable of judging whether my hon. friend's congratulations are justified with regard to this Bill as distinguished from other Bills giving evidence of being based on a thoroughly well thought out plan, but on every occasion when similar Bills have been brought forward the House has been assured that a "thoroughly well thought out plan" is being pursued, and yet every year this "thoroughly well thought out plan" is varied and the expenditure continually increases. I am afraid, therefore, we cannot rest assured that this can be looked upon as a complete programme for the next few years. Upon the financial side of this question, I would like to point out that here we have brought before the House in the last week of July what is really a very important part of the financial and naval programme of the Govern-

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ment of the year. It is an essential principle of good finance that the Government should declare when they produce their Navy Estimates what are their whole proposals with regard to naval expenditure, and when they produce their Army Estimates what are their whole proposals with regard to military expenditure, so that the Chancellor of the Exchequer when bringing in his Budget may be able to make a complete statement of the expenditure of the coming year, whether it is to be incurred under the Estimates or under Loans Bills such as the one now before us. In 1896 the Resolution was introduced on the same night as the First Lord of the Admiralty made his statement on the Navy Estimates.

MR. GOSCHEN : In 1895 also.

MR. BUCHANAN : I am speaking of the present Government. That was the first year the present First Lord was in office, and he began much better than he is now going on. Consequently we knew then, though not in detail, what were the full naval proposals of the Government both in regard to finance and sufficiently in regard to naval matters as well. The practice of making these Bills biennial instead of annual I must say is an entire departure from the previous practice of the House. We thereby lose the annual control that the House would have over the progress of expenditure under this Bill and the preceding Bill ; and that progress of expenditure and still more the progress of liability is a very serious item indeed at the present moment, and will be a still more serious item in the immediate future. It has already been pointed out how the estimated cost under these Bills has grown in four years from £8,000,000 to nearly £24,000,000, and it is absurd to anticipate any other result, if these tactics of Naval Works Bills go on, than that this sum will continue to increase in the future as it has done in the past. The liabilities are increasing at a much greater rate than our annual expenditure under these Naval Works is doing. Our annual expenditure no doubt is also increasing. It is now 1½ millions, but if the Admiralty estimate for these two years included in the Bill is accurate it will amount to one and a half millions

per annum, and no doubt as the works go on that sum will go up to a couple of millions, or even more. The result financially will be that when we endeavour to compare the Naval Estimates over a period of years, we shall have to add to the amount of expenditure upon the Navy the increasing annual sums which have been paid under these Naval Works Bills. I would make one more remark, and that is that the Naval Works Bill is a more satisfactory measure than the Military Works Bill, although they both proceed from the same Government, and were introduced almost at the same moment. The First Lord of the Admiralty, in the Bill he has set before us, has given both a memorandum affixed to the Bill and a full schedule attached to it ; he has given full particulars both as to past works and as to future works, and has definitely called the attention of the House to what are the large and important new works that are now being undertaken, to which the sanction of the House is asked for the first time in the present year. That is the right and proper method of doing business, and I am surprised that the Military Works Bill sins in every particular against this canon of financial procedure. I will not pursue that subject on the present occasion. I would merely say as regards the general aspects of this Bill what was said on a previous occasion, viz., that this enormous and constant increase of expenditure in the Navy really must make any cautious man pause, and look somewhat askance at the possibilities of the future. The hon. Member for King's Lynn anticipated a not very distant future when, if we continue to increase our naval expenditure, there would be very serious difficulties in getting the taxpayers of the country to endure it. That was true of the Naval Estimates in May last, but it is still more true in regard to this great naval programme, with the ever increasing liabilities under these annual Naval Works Bills. I think it is a very serious prospect for the taxpayers of this country if we are to continue to increase our naval and military expenditure in this way, and it must cause every cautious man to contemplate the future with some misgivings.

*LORD CHARLES BERESFORD :
The criticism of the hon. Member

who has just sat down is one which is levelled against all questions of expense. In regard to this subject there is always this to be remembered, that our expenditure on the Army and Navy is really only the rate of insurance which we pay for our trade, and if the hon. Member will calculate how much our trade has increased during the last twenty years he will see that the expenditure for the Navy and the Army is really not very extraordinary in proportion to our commerce.

MR. BUCHANAN : Our naval expenditure is increasing at a very much greater rate than our commerce.

*LORD CHARLES BERESFORD : It is not increasing so much as the hon. Member alleges, especially if he will calculate how very backward the expenditure was when we began this policy. I may say that want of the necessary precautions with regard to our naval expenditure was really due to the opinions held on these Votes some years ago. With regard to what the Civil Lord has brought before the House on behalf of the Board of Admiralty, I quite agree with what he said, and I commend him upon the very clear statement of fact which he made. This is what you want not only in this House, but in the country, because it puts the matter plainly before the electors. The Civil Lord told us plainly what they want and why they want it, and then he put down the expenditure. I do not think it is possible to find any fault with the speech of the Civil Lord or the statement he has produced. The hon. Member opposite brought forward a seemingly very good argument, namely, that we should not spend our money on our own docks, but that we should subsidise mercantile docks. The other day, when I was in China, an ironclad ran aground, and she was taken in one of the subsidised docks to be repaired. I went to see the Admiral and the dock master, and I found that by no possibility could that ship have been got out under ten days. What would have been the case if we had some very great damage done to a ship, and we had to send her to such a place as that for repairs? Such a thing has happened, and I am sure the First Lord will support me when I say that in the end it is very much cheaper to have your own docks and your own machinery than to have subsidised

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docks belonging to mercantile companies. The hon. Member for Sunderland brought forth two of the most extraordinary proposals I have ever heard of in my life. He said that such docks were unnecessary because you could take with the fleet a repairing ship to do all repairs. The hon. Member seems to forget that docks are necessary because you have got to clean the ship's bottom, which is a very difficult process, in order that the rate of speed shall be maintained. As has already been pointed out, the chief necessity of men-of-war is that they must have speed at the moment when it is wanted. I can give the hon. Member my experience of a ship which I have commanded when her full speed was 17 knots. I tried her once when she had not been in dock for nine months, and I could not get her to go more than 5 knots less than 17. That will give the hon. Member some idea of what happens to a ship if it is not often docked; and it must also be remembered that you use more coal under such conditions than you do when the bottom of the ship is as it should be. As to the remark made by the hon. Member regarding barracks, I should like to know what you are going to do with your schools, your great Naval Reserve, and your ships' companies when they are paid off? Are we to build the old three-deckers? Those ships are all getting not obsolete but beyond repair. You have got to put your men somewhere, and your best plan is to put them into barracks. In these days you have got to discipline your men much more in a military way than in the old days. I once explained in this House the difference in the discipline between the old bluejacket and the soldier. Suppose you had two men up for the same offence, one being a bluejacket and the other a marine. You would say to the marine, "What have you got to say?" and he would reply that he had committed the offence. The commander would say, "Four days; right turn, quick march." The marine might go grumbling, but nothing would stop him marching. If the commander said exactly the same thing to the bluejacket, would he do the same? No, not a bit of it, for he would stop there to argue the point, and it would probably take a corporal and file of marines to remove him. In the old days we had the cat and no discipl-

line; now we have no cat and good discipline. It is simply on account of the drilling of the men in barracks that good discipline has been introduced into the service. I should like to ask my right hon. friend a question about Hong Kong. I went carefully over the plans of Hong Kong, and I never saw a more efficient proposal than the one made there considering the amount of money which is to be expended upon it, and I think it will be of immense use to the fleet. With regard to this expenditure you cannot increase your fleet without increasing your auxiliaries which will enable your fleet to fight, and one of the most important auxiliaries to the fleet are properly equipped dockyards where you can go to repair your ships after an action, and very often before an action. I quite agree with my hon. and gallant friend as to Wei-hai-wei. My mind is entirely altered on that point because the policy of the Government has altered, and if the policy of the Government alters as regards China, I must alter my mind with regard to Wei-hai-wei. With regard to Gibraltar I am sorry that the Member for King's Lynn thought we had expended even a shilling too much there. Gibraltar is the most important naval base we have in the whole world, and I do not think we can make it too strong. I think the Government, as far as I can gather from Gibraltar, are doing very well indeed there, for it is the point of departure in the Mediterranean. I am glad to see that they are going to put the Cape, which is one of our most important strategic naval bases, in that state of order which it should be in.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): There are one or two points which I should like to hear a word or two about if the First Lord of the Admiralty is going to reply. My hon. friend the Member for Dundee made some complaints as to the continual increase in the total amount of the liability of the State; but I think it is only fair to say, as regards the original estimate of £8,000,000, that when the first Bill of this series was placed before the House we were careful to say that we could make no promise that the items mentioned exhausted the programme which the Admiralty then might consider necessary. Four years have

passed, and the whole scheme of naval works under the Naval Works Act has been under the consideration of the Admiralty, and now, at all events, I think we are justified in asking the First Lord of the Treasury whether we are within measurable distance of the end. Does this scheme approximately give the House the full naval programme of the Admiralty? I rather imagine that there are still one or two things that will have to come forward under another Bill, but I think it would be a satisfaction to my hon. friends if we could know that the Admiralty is nearing the end of its programme, and that the vast total of £23,000,000, which is the amount now reached, is practically the whole amount we shall be asked to supply under the Naval Works Act. I hope the right hon. Gentleman will be able to give us some assurance on that point. There is another matter which I think it might be convenient to direct the right hon. Gentleman's attention to. In Clause 1 it is provided:

"That Section 5 of the Naval Works Act, 1895, which relates to the manner in which money can be raised, shall be constituted as if it were re-enacted and in terms made applicable to this Act."

Section 5 of the Act of 1895 directed that the money required under that Act should be raised by terminable annuities, which were to run for a period of thirty years from the commencement of that Act. That section is now incorporated by reference in this Bill. It appears, however, to be left ambiguous whether all the annuities are to expire at the same time or not, or whether we are to have a series of terminable annuities expiring at different periods. This does not appear to me to be clearly expressed in the Act. I will say just one word about the delay. My right hon. friend has expatiated on that subject, and it has been a matter of a great deal of discussion in former years. I do not know whether hon. Members have seen the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General for the year 1897-98, for certainly that shows a most extraordinary and comprehensive shortage as compared with the works for that year. The Comptroller and Auditor-General points out that there was in that year a shortage of no less than £2,032,000 out of the amount authorised in the year 1897-98. I think now the Admiralty have

spent about £700,000, instead of the £3,000,000 which was provided for. The Comptroller and Auditor-General makes this observation. He says there may be specific causes for the remarkable difference shown between the expenditure authorised and incurred, more especially under the items included for the first time in 1897-98. I think he made a mistake, but the other explanation is one with which the Admiralty ought to deal. He points out that not only is there a shortage of £2,750,000, but I think he says there is a shortage on every single item in the schedule. As far as I know, I do not think that has been adequately explained. I urge upon the present Admiralty that this delay is very far from being conducive to economy. Instead of spending only £1,500,000 as was proposed last year, I should have been glad to have seen a much larger expenditure incurred on these works. I do hope that any cause of complaint on that score will be entirely removed. There is only one other point to which I will allude. The main interest of this Bill is always in the schedule containing the new works. When we come to the Committee stage we shall have an opportunity of discussing in detail the new works contained in this Bill in furtherance of the dockyard policy. This is a policy which has my entire sympathy, and I shall ask for fuller information at the proper time in regard to it.

MR. GOSCHEN: The hon. Gentleman who has just sat down, and the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Clitheroe have both spoken upon the question of the delays which have taken place. I will not say that their complaint is otherwise than the natural complaint which is made from year to year, but there is this peculiarity about it—that they never take the slightest notice of the causes of those delays which were put forward by the Civil Lord. I should have thought hon. Gentlemen opposite, if they agree with us, would have done their best to push these works on more than they do. What reason have they for thinking that we are slack in promoting these works? If the right hon. Gentleman sees, as perhaps he may one day see, the urgency which has been displayed on the part of the Admiralty, our vexation at the failures of contractors, the difficulties of acquiring land, and the heart-breaking incidents

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which have occurred, I am sure he would not blame, but would rather sympathise with us. But the point is still put forward that we have failed to grasp the situation. I can assure the right hon. Gentleman and all the other hon. Members who have criticised us that I am not conscious of the slightest shortcomings on the part of our officials, who must have had a good deal of experience in regard to the delays of contractors. The Admiralty are required to expend money, but if the contractor does not send in his certificate we cannot compel him to do so. We have been longing to pay, but we have not been able to make the payments we desired. All these works produce unforeseen difficulties, and no Comptroller and Auditor-General has got such knowledge of the administration of this part of the business as would really entitle him to lay any blame on the Admiralty in this respect. Complaints have been made as to the lateness of the introduction of this Bill; but is it not evident that the later the Bill is introduced the better the forecast we can make as to the effect of the proposals we introduce, for the earlier we introduce such a measure the more difficult it will be to estimate the amount likely to be spent within the year. With all these estimates, whatever pains we may take, they are always more or less, in their first stages, speculative; but we hope now that we have reduced them to a point at which they have a real basis in the figures placed before the House. The next point with which I will very briefly deal is the question of the biennial Bill to which the right hon. Gentleman objects, and to which especially the hon. gentleman the Member for East Aberdeenshire objects. He objects to it because he desires to maintain the control of Parliament. For my own part, if I were in the position of hon. Gentlemen opposite, I should prefer a biennial Bill or a triennial Bill to an annual Bill, because I think it is clear that there are more works likely to be introduced in an annual than in a biennial Bill. Therefore I do not think hon. Gentlemen opposite should press this point too heavily against the Government. In order to show how anxious we are not to deprive the House of information in regard to the progress of this expenditure which the House is entitled to have, I will undertake that a Return shall be presented showing precisely what has been spent,

and comparing it with the estimates. That may not satisfy the right hon. Gentleman opposite, but he will see in that suggestion the spirit which moves us. I am not quite clear about the attitude of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Clitheroe towards this Bill. At all events, if he did not look askance at the increased expenditure, he did not look straight at it, and he did not give the Committee any indication whether he approved of the Bill or whether he did not. I should like to know which of these proposals the right hon. Gentleman thinks not necessary. He suggested that private dockyards might be utilised, but he did not state where. Certainly not at Gibraltar; not at Malta, I presume, and certainly not at Bermuda. He could only have referred to one place, though he threw a kind of shadow over all the others. His remarks could only have applied to Hong Kong. My honourable friend gave an illustration of the risk of having to employ private docks. Where we have no establishment, and where the dock company have all the machinery, it might be a great advantage to us on occasion to be able to utilise their docks; but that cannot apply to all places.

SIR U. KAY-SHUTTLEWORTH: I do not want it to be supposed that I expressed any hostility to these proposals. I asked the question rather in the sense to which the right hon. Gentleman has alluded, viz., that this principle is applicable in some places but not in others.

MR. GOSCHEN: If that is the view of the right hon. Gentleman, what I have said will satisfy him. With regard to the floating dock at Bermuda, that will probably last for thirty years. Of course it stands on a totally different footing from a ship which has to run several risks, but if a dock lasts for thirty years I think it is a perfectly fit object to form the subject of an annuity. My hon. and gallant friend the Member for the Eastbourne Division of Sussex, while very complimentary on some matters, said that we ought to be impeached for not undertaking these works before.

ADMIRAL FIELD: And the previous Government.

MR. GOSCHEN: Yes, and the previous Government also. But if the late Government had laid down these docks, or if we had laid them down when we came into office, they would be too short and too narrow for the ships now being built. The developments in shipbuilding which have taken place were not foreseen ten years ago, and I think, therefore, that my hon. and gallant friend will see that something has been gained by the delay. The hon. Gentleman who has just sat down said this was practically a dock programme. So it is. It is a dock programme forced upon us by the necessities of the case, not only by the increase in the number of ships, but by the increase in the requirements of those ships and by their greater length and breadth; and whatever may be thought of the particular ports selected, I defy anyone who is thoroughly acquainted with the position of affairs to point to any work which is unnecessary and which might be safely put off having regard to the requirements of the service. A great many detailed points have been mentioned, but I think they can be dealt with in Committee. The hon. Member for King's Lynn referred to the rapid tide which would be caused at Portsmouth, and which he estimated at 8 knots. I think that is very exaggerated. The Commander-in-Chief at Portsmouth and those responsible for the harbour have not made any remonstrance on the point.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Has the right hon. Gentleman ever heard of war-ships breaking away?

MR. GOSCHEN: Yes, but not from the cause suggested by my hon. friend. The hon. and learned Member opposite asked me whether this programme was approximately final. Nothing is final in this world, but this programme is more final than if there were to be another next year. At all events we are prohibited for two years from increasing our present liabilities in respect to naval works. After two years other influences may be at the Admiralty, and may take even a wider view of the necessities of Imperial defence, but I may say that in existing circumstances, and in looking carefully on all the conditions, I should not press for any further large works. I

use the words "in existing circumstances" because I can see possible developments which may render it necessary for us or our successors to undertake other works. I think the House will see that I have gone as far as it is possible or right for me to go in answering the questions which have been put to me.

MR. LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): I should like to ask the First Lord one or two questions. In his able and interesting speech he referred to the proposed works at St. Simon's Bay. I wish to ask whether the property acquired has been absolutely acquired for the Imperial Government, and whether not only the docks but the approaches have been acquired. With regard to Gibraltar, I observe from a note on page 2 of this Bill that Gibraltar itself is to pay £14,000 a year for fifty-seven years as its share of the expenditure. The question I wish to ask is whether any dock dues are to be charged, and if so, whether they are to be received by the colony or by the Imperial Government. There is another question in which I have considerable interest, and with regard to which I should be glad to be supplied with some information. I refer to the question of the Pembroke Dockyard. Hon. Gentlemen who were members of the last Parliament will remember that a short time before the General Election an Amendment was moved by the noble Lord who is now the Secretary of State for India, demanding that there should be considerable expenditure on Pembroke Dockyard. That was refused at the time by those responsible at the Admiralty.

SIR U. KAY-SHUTTLEWORTH: It was not refused, but we considered it should be included in the Naval Estimates, and not in the Naval Works Bill as the noble Lord wanted.

MR. LEWIS: Of course I accept the right hon. Gentleman's explanation, but my point is that unquestionably Pembroke Dock was then used as a means of obtaining an electoral advantage when the present Government came into power, and when we found that nothing had been done to fulfil the obligations to which they were practically committed

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we raised the question in the House. At first our request was denied, but it was ultimately complied with. I myself believe that the works at Pembroke are of a very necessary character, but I wish to ask why the expenditure on them has been put off. A very small amount of money has been expended, and I wish to know whether the £90,000 which forms the greater part of the balance is to be expended next year and the following year. I only allude to the matter because electoral advantage has been taken of the matter before, and I want to be assured that nothing of the kind is contemplated again.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The whole sum is now taken because the completion of the works falls within the period covered by this Bill. We are anxious to get on with the work, and it will be finished before this Bill runs out.

MR. LEWIS: Then, with regard to Dover Harbour, I do not pretend to be an expert, but, as far as I am able to judge, we are plunging into an enormous waste of money at Dover. There is one matter connected with this Bill on which I think the House ought to congratulate itself, and that is the practical abandonment of the Wei-hai-wei policy.

MR. GOSCHEN: The hon. Gentleman should not draw any conclusion from the fact that Wei-hai-wei is not included in the Naval Works Bill.

MR. LEWIS: The remarks of the right hon. Gentleman fill me with great alarm. I thought we had seen the last of these great sums being spent on that ill-starred adventure. The Civil Lord gave us some very interesting figures as to the growth of the Navy; it is that growth which has made this Bill absolutely necessary from the Admiralty point of view. He told us that the Channel Fleet had quadrupled, that the China Fleet had trebled, and that the Mediterranean Fleet had more than doubled during the last ten years. As the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Clitheroe said, those are figures which certainly ought to give us pause. As he said, the construction of

these docks means new establishments and a large addition to the permanent charge on the revenues of this country. I think it is time that one plain word of objection and protest should be uttered against this enormous expenditure, which was denounced by the late Mr. Gladstone long before it reached its present proportions. The resources of this country are being frittered away unnecessarily in the enormous increase of our Navy and in the increase of our naval works. The fact of the matter is that we are the most easily frightened people in the whole world. When we look at our naval position, as compared with other nations, when we consider the advantages we have in our magnificent fleet of volunteer cruisers, and in our ability to build ships more rapidly than other nations, and in the great purity of our naval administration, I think we should pause. With regard to the last-mentioned advantage, I have sat as a member of the Public Accounts' Committee of this House, and I am bound to say that in my opinion it would be very difficult indeed to improve on our naval administration. This country may rightly claim to take the first place in the world in that respect, while other foreign administrations are honeycombed with corruption. Yet, notwithstanding all these advantages, we insist on increasing our Navy to an inordinate degree. This Bill asks for an additional expenditure of £6,000,000. It deserves a little examination at our hands, and we have a right to say a few words upon it as representatives of the taxpayers. We have had the opinion of naval experts and of hon. Members interested in the Navy above all things. It is only proper that we should have such men in this House who have the necessary information to guide us on many important matters connected with the Navy. But nobody is more dangerous in an assembly of this kind than the expert, and I am glad to think that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has exercised a restraining influence upon the experts who, from time to time, have pressed their particular schemes upon him. I only wish he had been firmer with regard to this particular demand for additional expenditure. It is time that we should put a stop to this enormous increase of expenditure; if we do not the time will come when, with declining trade, hundreds and thousands of men will be unemployed, and the Exchequer

will be unable to provide money for the relief of taxation and for the improvement of the condition of the poor. We have thrown our millions away largely without cause or justification. We have, it is true, had alarms and panics, but I do hope we shall behave with more level heads, and that we shall confide not only in the adequacy of our naval preparations, but also on the spirit of those who have fought for this country in the past, and who—though I trust in the far distant future—may be called on to fight for it again. I believe that the British people will be able to rise to any emergency. I believe in being thoroughly and adequately prepared for every eventuality, but I hold that, with regard to the Navy, we have spent far too much on it without any reasonable justification, and unless naval experts, who certainly have had a great deal of their own way, are checked, this country will have cause to rue the extravagant expenditure in which it is indulging.

*MR. WYLIE (Dumbartonshire): I wish to say a few words with regard to the docks scheme. I do not wish to see one of these docks abandoned, but I think the programme should be supplemented by the construction of a dock on the Clyde. This scheme seems to presuppose that all naval battles will be fought south of the English Channel. Under modern conditions of warfare, I think it is very probable that a great naval action may have to be fought very far north of the English Channel, possibly off the Clyde, and the ships which would be disabled would be required to be taken round to the south of England for repairs. I think it would be very good policy to have a dock as far north as the Clyde, which is the principal centre of shipbuilding and repairing, not only in the United Kingdom, but in the world, and ships could be there built and repaired more cheaply and expeditiously than in any other place. I therefore am of opinion that this scheme should not be omitted from any comprehensive dock programme, and I would commend it to the First Lord of the Admiralty and his able juniors.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvonshire): I would wish to ask the First Lord a question with regard to Wei-hai-wei.

MR. GOSCHEN: Surely the present Bill is not concerned with Wei-hai-wei in any way.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: That is the very point I am making. We have been given an indication that no money is to be spent on Wei-hai-wei. What becomes of the point made by the First Lord of the Admiralty, if we are liable next year for expenditure on Wei-hai-wei or other works? The fact is that we have always heard these things when Naval Works were being discussed, and the suggestion of finality, at any rate during the period covered by the Bill, has always been illusory.

Question put, and passed.

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

TELEGRAPHS (TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION, &c.) BILL.

As amended (by the Standing Committee), further considered.

Another Amendment made.

Another Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 24, after the word 'not,' to insert the words, 'within that area.'"—(Mr. Hanbury.)

Question proposed "That those words be there inserted."

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfarshire): I should like to ask the right hon. Gentleman what will be the effect of these words. It seems to me they are not necessary, and if they have any effect at all, it will be a nugatory effect. I do not see any reason for the limitation.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): This is the same point that was raised by the hon. Member last night, in answer to whom I said that although I

regretted that the company have the power of giving preferences under their existing license I do not think it would be fair under the present Bill to curtail the powers which they possess in the particular localities in which they operate.

MR. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.): This appears to be one of those clauses in which better terms are being given to the National Telephone Company than were given to it in the Committee upstairs. This is distinctly an Amendment in favour of the company, which has been in the habit in the past of refusing to supply a subscriber except under conditions such as allowing them to put up a post on his house and so forth. I say that is a monstrous power for any company to exercise, and the right hon. Gentlemen recognised that perfectly well, for in the sub-section upstairs he took it away, though he now proposes to water down the clause which the Committee upstairs agreed to, and he now says it shall now only be taken away in particular areas.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid.): I think this is a very important change, because the company may have customers outside a particular area, and outside that area you give the company unlimited powers as regards undue preferences.

MR. HANBURY: Perhaps it might save time if I explained why I put these words in. On looking into the Bill I had some doubts whether the words "gave any preference to any person whosoever" would include the preferences involved in the refusal to give service unless the applicant was willing, for instance, to allow the company to put a post on his house. The words "within the area" were put in so as to govern the preference in both cases.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 151; Noes, 27. (Division List, No. 297.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allen, Wm. (Newc. und.-Lyme)
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarras, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)

Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burns, John

Burt, Thomas
Cameron, Sir C. (Glasgow)
Cawley, Frederick
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.)
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.

Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colville, John
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cook, C. W. Radcliffe (Hereford)
 Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chatham)
 Denny, Colonel
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Donkin, Richard Sim
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Duckworth, James
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. A. Edward
 Fenwick, Charles
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
 Finch, George H.
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Flower, Ernest
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Garfit, William
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lon.)
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Hammond, Sir Ch. (Newcastle)
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Hatch, Ernest Fredk. George

Hoare, E. Brodie (Hampstead)
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Holden, Sir Angus
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
 Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Knowles, Lees
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning-Corn
 Lawrence, W. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lea, Sir Thos. (Londonderry)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Leng, Sir John
 Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Liverpool)
 Lowe, Francis William
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 M'Crae, George
 McKillop, James
 Maddison, Fred
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Middlemore, John T.
 Milton, Viscount
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, Walter
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicholson, William Graham

Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pickard, Benjamin
 Pilkington, R. (Lancs, Newton)
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Price, Robert John
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbt. (Hackney)
 Russell, T. W. (Tyronne)
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Usborne, Thomas
 Valentia, Viscount
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
 Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Woilehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf.)
 Wrightson, Thomas
 Wylie, Alexander
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES.—Sir
 William Walrond and Mr.
 Anstruther.

NOES.

Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Billson, Alfred
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Caldwell, James
 Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.

Holland, Wm. H. (York, W. R.)
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Macaleese, Daniel
 Maden, John Henry
 Molloy, Bernard Charles
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pirie, Duncan V.

Power, Patrick Joseph
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
 Wilson, H. J. (York, W. R.)
 Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
 Yoxall, James Henry
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Captain Sinclair and Sir
 James Joicey.

*MR. FAITHFUL BEGG (Glasgow, St. Rollox): The object of my Amendment is to prevent the Postmaster-General from being able to fix a minimum rate. One of the objects of this Bill is to induce competition, and if that is to be effected, and we are thereby to get cheap telephones, there should be no restriction as to the point below which the rates should fall. In particular I do not see why one of the parties to this bargain which has been made should be placed in a position to dictate to the others what the

minimum rate should be. I do not know whether it is the intention of the Post Office to protect itself in the future from what occurred in the past, when it was beaten out of the field by the existing companies; but it seems to me that if the Post Office is willing to enter into the open competition which was recommended by the Committee, it should not be afraid of the consequences of it, and that its competitors should be allowed to reduce the rates as they please. I move this Amendment in order to give the right

MR. GOSCHEN: Surely the present Bill is not concerned with Wei-hai-wei in any way.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: That is the very point I am making. We have been given an indication that no money is to be spent on Wei-hai-wei. What becomes of the point made by the First Lord of the Admiralty, if we are liable next year for expenditure on Wei-hai-wei or other works? The fact is that we have always heard these things when Naval Works were being discussed, and the suggestion of finality, at any rate during the period covered by the Bill, has always been illusory.

Question put, and passed.

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

TELEGRAPHS (TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION, &c.) BILL.

As amended (by the Standing Committee), further considered.

Another Amendment made.

Another Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 24, after the word 'not,' to insert the words, 'within that area.'"—(Mr. Hanbury.)

Question proposed "That those words be there inserted."

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfarshire): I should like to ask the right hon. Gentleman what will be the effect of these words. It seems to me they are not necessary, and if they have any effect at all, it will be a nugatory effect. I do not see any reason for the limitation.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): This is the same point that was raised by the hon. Member last night, in answer to whom I said that although I

regretted that the power of giving preference under the existing license I do not think will be fair under the powers which the particular localities have.

MR. BUCHANAN

This appears to be a question of which better terms the National Telephone Company is given to it in the Bill. This is distinctly an advantage of the company, and I have the habit in the past of not allowing them to have a house and so forth.

power for any of the localities is that possibly the right hon. Gentleman, on the termination of the Bill, will become the Postmaster-General, and the Committee may decide on nationalizing the telephone. It would not be in the power of the taxpayer to take over the telephone system worked on an unremunerative basis.

MR. CALLAGHAN: Therefore, in the interests of the public, we have fixed a minimum rate. Having done this in the case of the telephone, we must put the same principle on the same terms. I think this is a fair proposal. The Amendment.

MR. HANBURY: I have agreed to.

MR. HANBURY: It is barely possible to save time if the Bill is passed as it stands, it may be some doubt whether the Company is entitled to an extension of the license, if the grant for the extension is not made later on. I therefore refuse to assent to the clause, to the effect that the way-leaves shall contain the words "specified in the new words" and "extension thereof."

as to go

Quashed. Proposed by Mr. HANBURY.

The Amendment proposed by Mr. HANBURY: The Amendment proposed raises the specific question whether any extension is to be given to the National Telephone Company.

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allen, Wm. (Newcastle-under-Lyme)
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)

Barton, Dunbar Plum
Begg, Ferdinand Fair
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggee, Sir M.
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur G.
Brodrick, Rt. Hon.
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burns, John

However, we find a clause introduced into the Bill which will extend the licence of the National Telephone Company for several years longer, thus postponing the development of telephonic communication for a generation. In taking that step, I think the hon. Gentleman and the Government have taken a most reactionary step.

Amendment proposed—

In page 2, line 40, after the words last inserted to insert the words, 'provided that no licence shall extend beyond the year one thousand nine hundred and eleven.'—(Mr. Hanan.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*MR. COHEN (Islington, E.): The hon. Gentleman who has just sat down said that the expectation of the whole House was, when this Bill was introduced, that the licence of the National Telephone Company was to terminate in 1911. I am unable to say, of course, what was the expectation of the hon. Gentleman opposite; but if he had done the Committee the honour of reading their Report, he would have seen that no such words are to be found in that document. The words in that Report are:

"It seems generally admitted to be desirable in the public interest that all licences should terminate in 1911."

My right hon. friend, for reasons which, no doubt, he thought cogent, has come to the conclusion that it is desirable to give municipalities the privileges of telephonic communication and the conduct of telephonic traffic, and he has satisfied himself that municipalities could not undertake that arduous traffic without having a licence given to them for a period longer than 1911. I regret that municipalities are to have these privileges, but as soon as these privileges were given, it necessarily followed that my right hon. friend had to accord the same privileges to the National Telephone Company. I hold no brief for the National Telephone Company. I am as little interested in its prosperity as its adversity, but I do say that as soon as you give municipalities an extension of the licence, until 1925, you deprive yourself by that very act of terminating the licence of the National Telephone Company in that year. I am surprised that

hon. Gentleman an opportunity of explaining to the House the reason for putting the Postmaster-General in a position to prevent any of the competing companies reducing their rates below a given point.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, lines 29 and 30, to leave out the words ‘or fall below the minimum rates.’”—
(*Mr. Faithfull Begg.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill.”

MR. COLVILLE (Lanark, N.E.): I hope the right hon. Gentleman will not accept the Amendment. One effect of it will be that the company will reduce its rates temporarily to, practically, a vanishing point so as to destroy competition; and then, having destroyed competition, the rates will be raised at the pleasure of the company.

MR. GRIFFITH-BOSCAWEN (Kent, Tunbridge): I join with my hon. friend opposite in hoping that the right hon. Gentleman will not accept this Amendment. It is simply designed to render competition by municipalities all over the country absolutely impossible. If the Amendment were carried the result would be that the National Telephone Company would be able, in certain localities where there is competition, to reduce the rates practically to nothing, with the result that they would drive out of competition every municipality or local company. It is clear to me, if we adopt this Amendment, competition such as was recommended by the Committee would be an absolute impossibility. As a member of the Committee I look forward to effective competition following from the carriage of this Bill, and I therefore hope my right hon. friend will not accept this Amendment.

SIR J. JOICEY (Durham, Chester-le-Street): I think this is a sample of the patchwork system which the Government are going to set up in the country in the matter of telephones. The whole basis of this Bill is to give competition; but Her Majesty's Government are so afraid of competition that they want to prevent any competing company which happens to be in a particular area from reducing its rates, and thus giving the locality a low-priced telephone system. I think the

Mr. Faithfull Begg.

competition under this Bill is a perfect farce.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): I would remind my hon. friend that what we object to is unfair, and not fair, competition. I would like to know from the right hon. Gentleman whether this provision of minimum rates will do away with the system of rebates, to which I have the strongest objection.

MR. HANBURY: I believe that that would undoubtedly be the effect of the provision, and that is one of the reasons why I put in this minimum rate. In reply to my hon. friend the Member for St. Rollox, I have to say that the rates will vary in different localities. Another reason for introducing the minimum rate with regard to municipalities is that possibly the Post Office may, on the termination of the municipal licence, become the successor; that is to say, the Postmaster-General of the day may decide on nationalisation. In that case, it would not be in the interests of the taxpayer to take over a service which is worked on an unremunerative scale. Therefore, in the interests of the taxpayer, we have fixed a minimum charge, and, having done this in the case of the municipalities, we must put competing companies on the same terms. I cannot accept the Amendment.

Question put, and agreed to.

MR. HANBURY: It is barely possible that, under the clause as it stands, it may be said that the Company is entitled to an extension of way-leaves, if the grant for the licence is continued later on. I therefore move an Amendment to the clause, to provide that such way-leaves shall continue for the period “specified in the new licence for the duration thereof.”

Amendment suggested by Mr. HANBURY agreed to.

MR. BUCHANAN: The Amendment that I have to propose raises the specific question whether any extension is to be given to the licence of the National Telephone Company. That is really the root cause of my opposition to this Bill, and I believe it is the root cause of the opposition of many other members. Why do we object to any extension of the licence of the National Telephone Company? It is simply because the National Telephone

Company, for a long period of years, have enjoyed very great privileges, together with a practical monopoly, and they have abused those privileges and that monopoly. They have not given anything like the facilities to the country for the development of telephonic communication that they ought to have done. They do not only not deserve well of the House and of the country, but they deserve ill of the House and of the country. I am sure all of us thought, at the earlier stages of the Bill, that there was one thing we could look forward to from the Secretary to the Treasury, and that was that he was going to be a strong bulwark on behalf of this House and the country against the National Telephone Company. Nobody could have spoken more strongly than the right hon. Gentleman did, both in the Select Committee and in this House, against the methods of the National Telephone Company, and the way in which it had abused the privileges which it had so long enjoyed. In fact, the whole origin of this Bill is due to the fact that the National Telephone Company has not acted up to a spirit of fairness in regard to the licence it obtained. In a country like this, which is the richest in the world, and contains the largest commercial interests in the world, the telephone system might have been developed to a greater extent than in any other country. In this respect the National Telephone Company had the opportunity, a dozen years back, of making us an example to the world. Unfortunately, however, it has shown an example, not in a good sense, but in a bad sense. Nobody knows that better than the right hon. Gentleman, who has expressed himself most strongly on the subject. Yet, at the eleventh hour, in the Grand Committee, this Bill is substantially altered in the direction of favouring the National Telephone Company, by extending its licence, and benefitting it in a way which, I believe, its most ardent friends in the House and outside never for a moment expected. After the speech of the right hon. Gentleman, we thought that there was at any rate one redeeming feature in the Bill—one small drop of balm in Gilead—when we were told that the licence of the National Telephone Company was to come to an end in 1911. We should have then been free, either for nationalisation, or for the development of municipal enterprise, or for other forms of competition. Instead

of that, however, we find a clause introduced in the Bill which will extend the period of the licence of the National Telephone Company for several years longer, practically postponing the development of telephonic communication for a generation. In taking that step, I think the right hon. Gentleman and the Government have taken a most reactionary step indeed.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, line 40, after the words last inserted, to insert the words, ‘provided that no such licence shall extend beyond the year one thousand nine hundred and eleven.’—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

*MR. COHEN (Islington, E.): The hon. Gentleman who has just sat down said that the expectation of the whole House was, when this Bill was introduced, that the licence of the National Telephone Company was to terminate in 1911. I am unable to say, of course, what was the expectation of the hon. Gentleman opposite; but if he had done the Committee the honour of reading their Report, he would have seen that no such words are to be found in that document. The words in that Report are:

“It seems generally admitted to be desirable in the public interest that all licences should terminate in 1911.”

My right hon. friend, for reasons which, no doubt, he thought cogent, has come to the conclusion that it is desirable to give municipalities the privileges of telephonic communication and the conduct of telephonic traffic, and he has satisfied himself that municipalities could not undertake that arduous traffic without having a licence given to them for a period longer than 1911. I regret that municipalities are to have these privileges, but as soon as these privileges were given, it necessarily followed that my right hon. friend had to accord the same privileges to the National Telephone Company. I hold no brief for the National Telephone Company. I am as little interested in its prosperity as its adversity, but I do say that as soon as you give municipalities an extension of the licence, until 1925, you deprive yourself by that very act of terminating the licence of the National Telephone Company in that year. I am surprised that

hon. Gentlemen opposite should seek to undermine a condition which I consider, and which I think the House will see, is absolutely vital to the whole structure of the Bill. Let me say also before I sit down that it is wrong to say that the responsibility for the failure of telephonic communication in this country—if there has been a failure—lies entirely at the doors of the National Telephone Company. The National Telephone Company were the pioneers of telephonic communication in this country, and it has had to carry on its business obstructed at times by the municipalities upon whom these privileges are about to be conferred, as was proved by the Government Commissioner in his Report of the Glasgow inquiry, and as has been repeatedly shown, also by the municipal authority in London, of which I have the honour to be a member. I hope therefore that the House will see that the Amendment of the hon. Gentleman opposite is inconsistent with the structure upon which this Bill is based.

*MR. PROVAND (Glasgow, Blackfriars): It is not quite relevant to the Amendment before the House to refer to the last remarks which have fallen from the hon. Gentleman who has just resumed his seat; but he said that the Commissioner, when he made his examination at Glasgow, had stated that the municipalities there had obstructed the National Telephone Company. I can categorically deny that statement absolutely. They have not obstructed the National Telephone Company in the slightest degree. The general manager of the National Telephone Company himself said—

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Gentleman has already denied the statement. He cannot continue to discuss the matter.

*MR. PROVAND: I said I did not think I was quite in order before I made the remark, and so, of course, I accept your ruling. But let me return to the Amendment which is before the House. It cannot be said that I am any friend to the National Telephone Company. I have opposed it ever since 1882, and I have continued to do so up to the present moment. But with regard to the particular Amendment before the House, I will give a practical illustration of how the principle works out. I will take the case of the City of Manchester, in which I

have an office, and can therefore claim to be fairly cognisant of the facts. The National Telephone Company some year ago obtained permission from the municipality under an agreement with them to put wires under the streets subject to a six months' notice. The National Telephone Company took their wires off the tops of the houses—

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The remarks of the hon. Member are hardly germane to the question under discussion, which is whether the National Telephone Company's licence shall cease in 1911, or be given a longer spell. The hon. Member cannot go into the whole history of the matter.

*MR. PROVAND: With all deference, I was going to give an illustration to show how this clause as changed by the Amendment would act unfairly towards any company at present licensed. I thought instead of discussing it in an abstract way it would be better to give an illustration of the reason which I believe dominates the mind of the Government in making the Bill as it is, and one which would explain why I think the Amendment should be rejected. A company at present licensed has spent a great deal of money in laying its wires underground in Manchester. If the Bill were changed by this Amendment being accepted the municipality could give the company six months' notice and bring their business to an end. It is impossible to put that company back into its former state, because it previously supplied a service by overhead plant where it has now an underground plant. In such cases it is reasonable that the Government should make the Bill as it is, and it would be unfair to existing companies where, in the language of the Bill, they have incurred material expenditure in laying down underground wires in any place that they should not have a right to continue the service when any municipality or any company empowered by the municipality entered into competition with them in that particular area. For these reasons I must oppose the Amendment. I hope the Government will not accept it.

MR. COLVILLE: I am bound to support the Amendment. It is within the knowledge of those who sat upon the Committee of last year that one of the large municipalities which applied for a

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licence was willing to accept such a licence for a period equal to the unexpired term of the National Telephone Company's licence, the understanding being that, in accordance with the Report of the Select Committee, the plant should be taken over at the expiry of the licence. Therefore I do not think any hardship would be done by the Amendment. It is very well understood that the backward condition of telephoning in our country has been wholly due to the monopoly enjoyed by the existing company, and to grant any extension of its licence would be to discourage the competition which is so greatly needed to bring our country abreast of other countries in this matter.

MR. CAWLEY (Lancs., Prestwich): I hope the right hon. Gentleman will not accept the Amendment, as it would practically kill the Bill. Glasgow, before the Select Committee, certainly did give us to understand what were the conditions they were prepared to establish a telephone system of their own. But they are in a very peculiar and a very different position from other municipalities. They have, so to speak, got their backs up; they are determined to have their own telephone system, come what will. Other municipalities may not care to run the risk. I contend that there are very few municipalities in England who would establish a telephone system, knowing that their licence must lapse in 1911, because, although the Committee did decide that the plant which was useful should be purchased, it was a very ambiguous decision, and not one that any real business man could build upon. A great many aspersions have been cast upon the National Telephone Company for the way in which they have worked their business. We must remember that the company is a joint stock company, formed to make profits, and they have carried out their object in the way they thought right. I do not blame them, but I blame the Post Office officials for being like wax in the hands of Mr. Forbes. If this licence is not extended beyond 1911 I maintain that no company or municipality will start fresh systems, and it would be a gross injustice for the National Telephone Company to be compelled to give up their system in 1911 when another rival company was allowed to go on for so many years longer.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR: This is, if not the most important, the second important point we have discussed on this Bill. It may very fairly be urged that the retention of this provision is an essential portion of the right hon. Gentleman's scheme, but I must say that the admission made by one of his supporters, the hon. Member for Prestwich, fully justifies the view that these present proposals are a surrender to the National Telephone Company. It must be remembered that the Select Committee of last year was appointed to decide a single specific point, and not to conduct a general inquiry into the telephone question. The mover of the Amendment was perfectly correct when he said that the whole past attitude of the Government with regard to this question had been, without exception, against extending the licence beyond 1911. The Government have taken an absolutely new departure—a departure which will be ruinous towards telephone enterprise in the country, and one which runs directly counter to all evidence and experience and decisions of former Governments. The right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill admits that the present position of the company is a monstrous position, and yet he is going practically to re-install them, and prolong their occupation of that position. No one can deny that the provision of this clause will enable the company to compete with municipal enterprise on better terms than they can at present. To ask the House to continue these privileges might almost be characterised by as strong language as that which the right hon. Gentleman has applied to the position of this company, and I hope the House will carry the Amendment.

MR. HANBURY: The one object of the Select Committee of last year—which was practically an unanimous Committee—was to endeavour to find some means by which, if competition arose between the National Telephone Company and municipal authorities, that competition could be carried on on fair terms. The Committee balanced as carefully as possible the advantages possessed by the company on the one hand, in being already in possession of the field, and the advantage possessed by the municipalities, on the other hand, in having, for instance, underground wayleaves; and the whole of the Report went upon the principle that, if

there was to be competition, it should be, as far as possible, on fair and equal terms. Surely it would be a most unequal competition to give long licences to municipalities unless the licence of the National Telephone Company was extended to a corresponding period. Starting from that fact, which was the basis of the whole Report of the Committee, in whose interest is it that this extension should take place? No doubt the Committee thought that municipalities would be willing to undertake licences even though those licences terminated in 1911, but we have discovered since then that 1911 is too short a period. ["No."] If it is not too short a period the municipalities themselves can say that their licences should not run beyond 1911, and in that case the licence of the National Telephone Company will not be extended. The whole matter is in the hands of the local authorities themselves. If they want short licences they can have them; if they want long licences they can have them. The hon. Member for East Aberdeenshire said we were giving fresh powers to the Postmaster-General to extend the licence of the National Telephone Company. The Postmaster-General has that power at the present moment. What we are doing really curtails that power, because we are here saying that the licence can only be extended at the choice of the local authorities themselves. It cannot be pressed too clearly on the House that these licences are only to be extended at the choice of the municipalities themselves, and then only in the localities where competition is instituted. I quite agree with everything which has been said as to the position of the National Telephone Company in the past. I do not retract one single word that I have ever uttered about the extravagant privileges which were granted to them; but in the future the company will be in a very different position. It will cease to be an unregulated monopoly; it will cease to be a monopoly at all. A large portion of the United Kingdom has been taken away from it, and even where it is to continue working—and certainly where this competition occurs—it will be brought strictly under control. Therefore I regard the National Telephone Company in the future pretty much as I should regard any other company. I have always said that looking to the backward state of the telephone industry in this

country it was our duty rather to supplement the work of than to destroy the National Telephone Company. We want to have as wide a service as we possibly can, and I think a good deal of the criticism that has been directed against the extension of the licence of the company has been a criticism which has arisen out of a recollection of the past rather than with a view to the position of the company in the future. Wherever there is to be competition we have not only ensured that it should give a public service in the best sense of the word—that is, that it should serve everybody alike on equal terms, which it was not compelled to do before—but that it should come under control as to rates, and if the licence is to be extended for eight years there is to be a limitation also. I therefore think—although nobody has spoken more strongly than I have against the extension of the licence while the company held an unregulated monopoly—that now that it has ceased to be a monopoly and has come under control, the arguments against extending the licence are much less cogent than they were.

SIR J. JOICEY: In my judgment there is no satisfaction in the speech just delivered. If there was one thing more than another upon which former Governments and Committees have been unanimous it was that all licences for telephone services should terminate in 1911. The Committee which sat in 1892 distinctly refused to sanction any extension beyond 1911, and the Committee of last year was really prohibited from going into the question. It was never for a moment contemplated that the licence would be extended beyond 1911. My hon. friend below me stated that no municipality would undertake a telephone service under a licence expiring at that date. That was distinctly the reason why the Committee sanctioned the provision by which the Government would be enabled to buy the plant of municipalities and new companies in 1911. The Government are now going altogether beyond the recommendations of the Committee of last session. In my judgment this is a most vital proposition, because, as an advocate of nationalising the telephone system, I see clearly that it practically destroys all chances of nationalising the system in this country. If this opportunity of terminating the licences in 1911 is missed, there will

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never occur so favourable an opportunity of getting full possession of the telephone service. The difficulties which exist now, and which will exist in 1911, will exist with a tenfold greater degree in 1925. We have been told again and again that we want to break down this monopoly. By why has the National Telephone Company got a monopoly? Simply because the Post Office refused to grant licences to anybody else—which it has the power to do. It not only refused to license anybody else, but it encouraged the National Telephone Company to buy up any other company; and in deciding as to the extension of the licence of the National Telephone Company, I think we are justified in going into these matters. Why did not the Government destroy this monopoly before? Because they looked forward to the time when they would take over the system as a national system, and they knew if they increased the number of companies it would make such an arrangement very much more difficult, and that is the reason I certainly object to this extension of the licence beyond 1911. If we had an opportunity of putting this question before the country, the Government would not get the support of any large proportion of the population for the policy they are now pursuing. I admit there are difficulties in the situation, so far as the right hon. Gentleman is concerned, but he ought to face those difficulties in the way recommended by the Committee—namely, that the competition, if any, should be carried out by the Post Office.

SIR J. T. WOODHOUSE (Huddersfield): This Amendment, undoubtedly, raises the most important question it is possible to raise on this proposal, and, friendly as I am to the Bill, I shall feel bound to vote for the Amendment. Perhaps the House does not quite appreciate what really is the meaning of the proposal of the Government to extend this licence. In the first place, it is not a general extension of the licence of the National Telephone Company, but an extension only in particular cases—cases in which competition will be set up by municipalities, or by new licences, with the consent of the municipalities, or cases where underground way-leaves have already been granted to the National Telephone Company. Reference has been

made to Glasgow, but Glasgow will not come under the operation of this clause, because they have not granted underground way-leaves up to the present.

MR. HANBURY: But Glasgow will come under another portion of the Bill.

SIR J. T. WOODHOUSE: I am dealing with the clause which purposes to extend the licences only where underground way-leaves have been acquired by existing companies: that is as far as this clause goes. The question really under the consideration of the House is whether or not these licences should be extended. What are the reasons given for the extension? First, that the National Telephone Company will under this Clause come under control. In other words, under Sections (a) and (b) they are to cease to give favours or preferences in the future, as they have been at liberty to do, and in some cases have done, in the past; and they are to bring their charges under the control of the Postmaster-General as to maximum and as to minimum rates. I venture with great respect to say that precisely where this clause will bring these points into operation, municipalities at the present moment, by the agreements under which they have granted these way-leaves, have got the control. In every one of such agreements conditions have been imposed that no preferences should be given, and that the charges should come under control. That is one of the reasons why I cannot follow him upon this particular clause when he says the country is obtaining a concession. This is a most serious matter for the municipalities, for many of them have entered into an agreement for the granting of underground way-leaves upon the condition that they shall be terminated at the end of twelve months, and in many cases at the end of six months. Under this Bill the municipality gets nothing in exchange but the right to compete with its hands tied, and I cannot see that there is any justice in granting to the National Telephone Company this concession. When the National Telephone Company got this licence in 1884 it was granted with the distinct reservation that the Postmaster-General should allow other licences if he liked. I say there is no right on the part of the National Telephone Company to complain

of the granting of new licences, and the concession made to the company will prejudice the municipalities and cause to be a permanent tenure what otherwise would have been a six months' tenure. I cannot follow the right hon. Gentleman in the concessions he has made to the National Telephone Company, and the truth is that they have been extorted from him by the strong, undue, and unfair pressure of certain Members of Parliament, who, like all other Members, are sent to this House to exercise their influence in the public interest, and not for private interest. I do not believe that the Secretary to the Treasury would have ever granted this concession but for the pressure put upon him by certain Members of Parliament. I have great admiration for the right hon. Gentleman, for he has done his utmost to protect the public interest, and if he had been supported, as he ought to have been, by the Government, I do not think we should have found that he would have made these concessions. Because I believe this proposal is opposed to the public interest, I shall vote for my hon. friend's Amendment.

***MR. HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs):** I can see no valid grounds for the great extension of the licence which the right hon. Gentleman proposes to give to the National Telephone Company. I agree with every word which has fallen from the hon. Member for Huddersfield, but I think the right hon. Gentleman advanced one or two arguments which the hon. Member for Huddersfield has not met. Last night the right hon. Gentleman stated, as one of the grounds for granting this extension, that he had obtained from the company a concession by which they undertook not to compete with the small municipalities within certain areas, and I think the right hon. Gentleman went the length of saying that he regarded that as a very valuable concession, and as a sufficient justification of the extension of the licence. Does he mean us to suppose that the National Telephone Company are so blind to their own interests as to have gone on for all these years without extending their company into those districts if there had been any profit to be made out of them? This company is paying interest upon a very large capital at the rate of something like 7 per cent.

Sir J. T. Woodhouse.

***MR. FAITHFULL BEGG:** No dividend of that amount is paid.

***MR. HEDDERWICK:** It is paying a very handsome dividend I know, and, of course, the reason why the company have not pushed their operations into these sparsely populated districts is because they did not want to risk the dividends they earned in the large centres of population. There was another point which the right hon. Gentleman made. He said he regarded it as confiscation if he did not extend this licence in connection with the granting of licences to municipalities to whom he desired to give this power. The right hon. Gentleman laid strong emphasis upon this point.

MR. HANBURY: What I said was that the municipalities under this Bill would have a new inducement to terminate these way-leaves, and if they did, for the purpose of carrying on competition with the company, terminate these way-leaves, that would be practically confiscating the property of the National Telephone Company.

***MR. HEDDERWICK:** I fail to see that there would be confiscation at all. The right hon. Gentleman tells us that the National Telephone Company has enjoyed extravagant privileges, and he has even said that if he had been in power when they were applied for he would not have consented to grant them. But surely that is a ground not for extending the privileges of the company but for terminating them. Under these circumstances—having considered the grounds which the right hon. Gentleman has stated for this extension, and seeing no confiscation in allowing the licence to run out at the time which was originally agreed upon—I am obliged to support the Amendment of my hon. friend.

***MR. FAITHFULL BEGG:** I know it will probably be very unpopular in the presence of hon. Gentlemen opposite to say a word in favour of the National Telephone Company, but so much has been said adverse to that company that I hope I may be permitted to say a single word upon that subject. My right hon. friend has spoken of the privileges

granted to that company, and has expressed his opinion that those privileges should never have been granted. This carried me back to a very early period in the history of the Telephone Company. In the year 1879 I had an interest in the company, and I also had something to do with the management of its business. Then came the time when the company fought the question of a telephone being a telegraph, and a compromise was come to between the Government of the day and those who were, at that time, interested in telephone matters. It was seriously considered whether it would not be advisable to endeavour to appeal against that decision, but for some reason or other it was thought more prudent to accept the compromise which was offered by the Post Office authorities to those interested in the telephonic enterprise, and that is the genesis of the licence which is said to contain these extravagant privileges. Hon. Gentlemen who take part in this discussion and use information with regard to telephone matters which is of very recent date have no idea what were the difficulties which had to be encountered in the earlier stages of the telephonic enterprise. I can go back to the time when it was practically impossible to get money to put up telephones, and when it was almost impossible to get people to take the telephone at all. Until quite recently I had in my possession a letter written by the town clerk of the city of Edinburgh, in which he refused to permit the fire brigade to be joined on to the telephonic exchange free of charge. I have long since ceased to have any interest in telephones, for, when prices were a good deal higher than they are now, I sold out. I mention this for the purpose of pointing out that however extravagant these privileges may seem, they were not so extravagant at the time they were granted; but, on the contrary, I believe they were practically the minimum under which capital could have been got together to develop this enterprise. Surely something must be allowed to those who were pioneers in this business. I would remind the House of the analogy in electric lighting, where, by an Act of Parliament, electric lighting was strangled for years. The difficulties which have now arisen were caused through the action of the Post Office; opportunities have been lost

which might have been taken advantage of to completely alter the complexion of this enterprise; and we are suffering not so much from the extravagant privileges, but from the fact that, through incompetency or otherwise, full advantage was not taken of the opportunities offered. My right hon. friend does not by any means give anything away, for he gets a fair equivalent for the concessions he has made, and I hope he will carry his point.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs): Although the hon. Member opposite has disposed of his shares in the National Telephone Company, he seems still to take a kindly interest in that company, and no doubt the big profits he has made justify that feeling. I cannot, however, see that he has made out a case in favour of this extension of the licence. I admit that the pioneers are entitled to some sort of compensation, but I think they have done pretty well out of it. If all the shareholders had had the wisdom of the hon. Member for the St. Rollox division of Glasgow they would have cleared out long ago at a handsome profit. I do not think the National Telephone Company have much to complain of in this respect, because, as a rule, the fate of pioneers in most of our great enterprises is that they sell out and get no dividend at all. The National Telephone Company have been exceptionally lucky, and I do not think it is now open to the company to come here and ask for an extension of their licence. I should like to know what possible case there is for granting this extension. If the National Telephone Company had a monopoly granted to them by Parliament covering the expenditure which they have incurred, and if this Bill were to break that monopoly and give away some of their rights, I could understand them coming here and saying, "You are depriving us of some property upon which we have expended large sums of money, and we now ask you to extend this privilege in order to recoup us for this expenditure." But nothing of the sort has happened, for the only thing that has happened is this: the Treasury issued a Minute in 1892 recognising competition against the existing company. There is no doubt that, at the present moment, any company may be formed in any part of London to compete with the National Telephone Company. This Bill does not deprive the company of any

money, and why should they say, "You must extend our time"? In consideration for what? In consideration for certain privileges which are to be granted for the extending period. Those privileges are already enjoyed by the municipalities in every case. I hold in my hand an agreement between the National Telephone Company and the Hull Corporation, which provides that there shall be a scale of charges which are set forth in the schedule, and there is also a provision that whenever there is a reduction in price in any other part, the same reduction shall be extended to Hull. In addition to that, in another paragraph it is stated that no monopoly is to be conferred on the company, and the Corporation reserves full rights. Therefore it will be seen that these municipalities have already got these privileges conferred upon them in every case. Why should this company come to the House of Commons and say that "In consideration of something which you have already got, and of which you are in full possession, you must extend to us fourteen years of the licence we have already got"? I also object to this extension in the interests of the rural districts, which at the present moment are practically excluded from the benefit of our telephone system because it would not pay the company to go there. The company simply go to large towns, where they can make a profit. The right hon. Gentleman brings in a Bill to enable municipalities to set up systems for themselves. At the expiration of the licence granted to the Telephone Company what will be the position of things? In 1911 in the large towns, where the systems can run side by side, you will have an excellent telephone service at reduced charges, but you will have no extension of the service to rural districts at all. The object of the Government ought to be to reduce the value of this monopoly by competition, so that in the year 1911 we can go to the company and say, "The value of your property has been reduced to such a point, and we will buy you out at such a sum, and establish a system which will be really a national one." Under this Bill an extension of fourteen years will be given to the Telephone Company's contract, and the position of the company will be very much strengthened, for in case you want to buy them out they will then have got something to sell. There is no doubt that in the near future people

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will avail themselves more and more of the telephone. In Switzerland one person out of every 100 of the inhabitants is on the telephone, while in this country the proportion is only one in 650. The reason for this is that here you have a monopoly company, while in Switzerland they have a proper national system. I do appeal to the right hon. Gentleman not to destroy his own Bill by a concession which I do not believe he is himself really in favour of. The right hon. Gentleman himself stated that:

"The indirect influence which a big company can bring to bear, and is bringing to bear, is enormous, and it is difficult to see where public policy begins and private interests end."

That is the only reason why this extension is granted at all, and I am positive that if the matter had been left to the right hon. Gentleman himself, he would never have granted those concessions. He has granted them because of pressure brought to bear upon him from this side of the House, and I think we should be really considering the views of the right hon. Gentleman in regard to this monopoly if we rejected this part of the Bill.

MR. LABOUCHERE: The best proof that the House ought to object to the alterations which have been made in this Bill is that we know perfectly well that they are the result of "lobbying." After this agreement had been come to, the National Telephone Company apparently considered itself perfectly satisfied, because all opposition on the part of the supporters of the Telephone Company appears to have disappeared. If these alterations are of so much benefit that the company withdraw all opposition, that in itself I consider a ground for supporting the Amendment. I do not understand the right hon. Gentleman when he says it is unfair and unjust not to give the National Telephone Company a continuation of its licence until 1925 if we give a licence to the municipalities. What has one got to do with the other? The National Telephone Company does not lose in any sort of way if the municipality continues its licence after 1911, up to which time the company would receive its dividend. If the company ceased in 1911, as it ought to do, it would cease to get its dividend, while the municipality would go on obtaining its dividend. The

company has been in existence ever since 1874, and in 1911 it will have had a licence for 26 years; and yet we are told that if municipalities get a licence for 25 years we must continue the company's licence for an additional 14 years. The right hon. Gentleman says we get a *quid pro quo* for the few concessions we make, but the only practical *quid pro quo* which I can see is that what was before an unregulated company will now be a regulated company. For my part I would prefer that the municipalities did not obtain greater power when the company's licence ceased in 1911, rather than that the company should go on till 1925. What we all desire, or should desire, is the nationalisation of the telephones, and if you continue this licence to the company you will not be able to get nationalisation until 1925, unless you are prepared to pay an enormous sum to the company for it. Even suppose you give the municipalities a licence till 1925, it is infinitely easier to deal with municipalities than with the company. A municipality is elected by the ratepayers, and the people would take care to keep down the rates for telephones, and they will always, or almost always, be ready to hand over their system to the Government. Under these circumstances I do think that it is the very greatest pity to introduce this new arrangement into the Bill. We ought to stand firm by 1911, and under no circumstances in any Bill whatever, or under any considerations whatever, to extend this company's powers any longer than 1911.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland): This is a very remarkable Debate in many respects. Except for the very timid and tentative support given to these proposals by the hon. Baronet the Member for Bridgeton, the right hon. the Secretary to the Treasury stands alone in their defence. ["No."] Well, perhaps, I ought also to except the hon. Member for East Islington, whose interests are always in favour of the capitalists. The right hon. Gentleman, who introduced this Bill amid the chorus of applause from every section of the House and every Member of the House, except the Members who represent the Telephone Company, stands alone to-night, with the exception of the two hon. Members to whom I have referred, in defence, not of his own position, not of

the position which in his heart and conscience I believe he would be inclined to take up, but in the defence of the position which has been forced upon him. There is something a little more than the interest of the Bill at stake to-night; and that is the position of the House of Commons, and specially the position of the House of Commons when dealing with large, influential, and far-reaching monopolies. What is the pressure to which the right hon. Gentleman is yielding? I do not believe it is his own conviction. I believe that the right hon. Gentleman is as convinced as when he introduced the Bill that this monopoly ought to get a short shrift; but instead of that he has given it a new lease of life of fourteen years. The right hon. Gentleman says that in return they have got maximum and minimum rates; but that privilege is already secured in connection with the municipalities, so that that is no concession at all. The right hon. Gentleman, in introducing the Bill, made a speech which was the most scathing denunciation of this monopoly imaginable. I almost pitied my hon. friend the Member for Huddersfield, and I hope he was not in the House when the right hon. Gentleman was pronouncing this indictment upon the company.

"‘I am not bound,’ said Mr. Forbes, ‘by a mere written agreement, such as binds ordinary men of business: the moral law alone is the thing for me.’ From that point of view, went on the right hon. Gentleman, he enlarged with a certain suave satisfaction (I am not responsible for the rather rancorous tone of these observations) on the great moral obligation of the assumed partnership between himself and the Post Office, and the mutual delights which follow from a system of brotherly co-operation.”

Then there was something about Arcadia. On another occasion the right hon. Gentleman said:

"I am sure that the House is not prepared to grant fresh powers to the company which is already endowed with very large powers beyond those afforded to any other company."

And the way the right hon. Gentleman fulfils these words is to extend the operations of the company from 1911 to 1925. It is said that if we do not accept the views of the right hon. Gentleman the Bill will be lost. But I would rather see the Bill lost than that this monopoly

should be continued till 1925, and the telephone system of this country remain a laggard and a disgrace in comparison with the systems in other countries.

***MR. GRIFFITH-BOSCAWEN:** It has been said that my right hon. friend stands alone in supporting the extension of the licence to the National Telephone Company. I do not think I can be charged with being a friend of the company. I have consistently supported my right hon. friend in his efforts to break down the monopoly of that company; but I must say in fairness to the company, and in the hope of obtaining a fair and genuine competition, I support him also in the extension of the licence. The Select Committee said that there should be competition, but competition on equal terms, and that if the licence of the National Company terminated in 1911, the licence of the municipalities should not extend beyond that term. In the interest of the municipalities themselves, the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary to the Treasury proposes that the licences of municipalities should go on from 1911 to 1925, and it therefore follows on the principle of fairness and equity that the licence of the National Company should be extended to the same term.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: A municipality is not a private trading corporation.

***MR. GRIFFITH-BOSCAWEN:** No, but it was held that it would be only fair that the same privilege should be extended to the National Company as was given to the municipality. The hon. Gentleman says that the licence of the company is to be extended for twenty-five years, but it is absolutely at the will of the Corporation to determine how long the company's licence should run. If the corporation say that they are content to embark their money in a licence terminable at the end of 1912, the National Company's licence would terminate in 1912; but if they choose to go on till 1925 the company's licence would also go on to that year. The hon. Member opposite talks about the extension of the monopoly of the company. I would be the last person to vote an extension of the licence if it were to perpetuate a monopoly.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor.

But the licence of the company is only to be extended in places where it ceases to be a monopoly, and where there is competition. The right hon. Gentleman, I admit, is giving a certain advantage in those particular areas to the company; but what is he getting in return from the company?

AN HON. MEMBER: Nothing.

***MR. GRIFFITH-BOSCAWEN:** He is getting a very great deal. First of all he secures the extinction of the monopoly in those areas in which the licence is extended.

AN HON. MEMBER: There never was one.

***MR. GRIFFITH-BOSCAWEN:** In theory there never was one, but in practice there was. At all events, you are giving the municipalities for the first time powers by a general enabling Act to get rid of that monopoly. In the next place, you get rid of the unregulated character of the company in these areas. And in the third place, you are getting intercommunication. The last concession is, in itself, of much greater value than any advantage that has been given to the company, because, if the municipalities are to start a telephone system on anything like fair terms, intercommunication is absolutely essential.

MR. MOULTON (Cornwall, Launceston): Nothing has impressed me so much with the mischief of passing Bills of this important nature, by the methods of Grand Committees, as the way in which hon. Members of great ability have got up, both yesterday and to-day, and put before this House arguments which, if they had a week or two to think about them, they would be ashamed to associate with their names. These arguments are put forward with the greatest sincerity, but it shows to me that neither this House, nor still less the public, have had any time to weigh the consequences of this most momentous change in our telephonic system. I propose to deal very shortly with this particular point, that by this Bill those corporations that have entered into contracts with the

National Telephone Company in regard to way-leaves, have these contracts forcibly prolonged, until the end of whatever licence the company chooses to ask for. What I say is, that everything that is given to the Company is regarded as absolutely sacred—you must not confiscate one fraction of the property of the company—but when it comes to the property of the municipality, you may confiscate it if you like. What was the position of the company, and of the municipalities? The company accepted the pioneer licence for thirty years, with the power of the Post Office to compete with them by means of public money, and also of granting licences to other people. At first the Post Office refused to grant licences to municipalities. Why? Because competition was dangerous, and inconvenient. Then we find that the Post Office became convinced that competition was right; but instead of using their power of granting competition, which they had reserved to themselves, they said they would never grant it to the municipalities unless this contract, which was freely made with the National Telephone Company, is extended for as many years as the licences given to the municipalities. What right have the Government to use their power of refusing to grant licences in the interests of the National Company? What spell has been thrown on the Government? How is it that, when they are convinced competition is good, they will not allow that good competition, unless the municipalities sacrifice valuable rights, and hand them over to the National Company? We are told it is not fair that we should give a licence to the municipalities unless we give a licence to the National Company. But the National Company is not a new company; it has had thirty years of privileged working, and the municipalities are coming in to try a new undertaking. Are you going to say that the new undertaking shall not receive a licence without prolonging all the licences you have given in the past to those who have profited by them? How have we dealt with the tramways and with the electric light? Is it to be said that you are not to grant a licence to an electric light company which comes fresh into an area, without extending the licence of all those who have had licences in the area before? If that is going to be done, then all the licences are going to be perpetual. What

is the meaning of talking about treating all people alike, when the National Company is treated in this exceptional manner, by having a licence for thirty years, and then being given a further extension? Nothing is more plain than that the licence dies in 1911, and what right has the Government to prolong it, merely because the right of giving a licence to another company in the same area, which was reserved, is acted upon by the Government? To talk about treating them all alike is drawing a red herring across the trail. I want to show how the public interest is unprotected by this Bill. I will take two cases—one the case of a place where there is no competition under the present law, and the other the case of a place where there is no competition under the law as proposed by this Bill. Suppose you take such a place as Glasgow, or one not so eager to get a licence, such as Cambridge. Suppose the National Telephone Company misbehaved themselves in Cambridge, and refused to give a proper service, the Post Office has it in its hand to punish them for that. They can grant a rival licence, and the fear of that has kept the National Telephone Company in order, and would keep it in order in the future. But now, let this law be passed, and what position is the National Telephone Company in? Necessarily, the more badly it behaves, the more it drives the public to seek a competitor, the more certainly it improves its property, because it gets a prolongation of its licence. There was some power of keeping them in order with the threat of competition. Now the threat of opposition, instead of being a threat, is exactly the opposite. You cannot introduce competition, if this Bill is passed, without immensely strengthening the position of the National Telephone Company. Let a licence be granted to the municipality of Cambridge for twenty-five years—because it is said that without a twenty-five years' licence no municipality would accept the privilege—and what is the consequence? The National Telephone Company, even if it behaves well, will insist that every one of its subscribers should agree not to go to another company for the next ten years, and they may impose on their subscribers any terms they choose. You have taken away the one power that the Post Office had, though it was most disgracefully slow to use it, of keeping the company

in order, and you make a grant of competition a gift to the company instead of a threat. How is the public protected against this? In no way. According to this Bill any terms that the company choose to impose on the public, in the districts where there is competition, or where there is not competition, are legal, with one exception—that if there is competition they may enforce those terms on everybody, and if there is not competition they can please themselves on which of their customers they can enforce their terms. The Secretary to the Treasury said that the licence of the National Telephone Company gave them powers far wider than ought to have been granted to a private company. If you read this clause, you see that with one exception—that of not permitting personal preference—it leaves the powers of the National Telephone Company exactly the same as in the original licence, which the right hon. Gentleman admits is to be prolonged for twenty-five, fifty, or one hundred years, or just as long as the municipalities choose to struggle against them. The concessions are most delusive. One of these concessions is that they give up districts that are not occupied. Now in every one of these districts the Post Office could give a licence to whatever body would take it up, and if the National Telephone Company would not take up a licence before, is it likely that it would take it up afterwards? The country, therefore, could secure that concession without asking the National Telephone Company. The next alleged concession is that the company should not use undue preferences and apply to one terms which they would not apply to others. All I can say is that if they attempted to do that they would stultify themselves, because they repudiated the idea that they ever treated people unequally. Suppose that that is so, it makes that concession a nullity. This Bill gives the right for the company to treat people unequally. What is the other concession? It is simply this, that they won't charge more or less than the new companies—a thing which we might very well leave to competition to settle. In return for these three very illusory concessions, we are going to allow the National Telephone Company to go on for the next fifty years.

MR. HANBURY: Fifty years!

Mr. Moulton.

MR. MOULTON: I know what I am saying. You have only got to read the Bill to see that what I am saying is correct.

MR. HANBURY: The hon. Member was not in the House when I stated that the Bill has been altered in that respect.

MR. MOULTON: I have seen the proposed alterations, and the matter is very much as it was before. It entirely depends on the will of the Post Office, which is less under the control of this House than an Act of this House—it depends entirely upon the will of those who manage the Post Office for the time being what the length of the licence will be and what the terms. I strongly object to this House giving to any member of the Government, or to any Department of the Government, the power of giving a licence which will redound to the advantage of the National Telephone Company, after my experience of the National Telephone Company in this House during the last three years. We have only one thing to do; we have got to conserve the rights of the people. The people conceded to the company clearly and distinctly a pioneer licence of great value. We ought not to extend that which we have given, because if we do we will be making a free gift to this company. This company is not an unsuccessful one, struggling with difficulties. Nothing of the kind; it is a most profitable company, and we have no right, now that it has ceased to be a pioneer company, to make a gift of this concession to the company, or to any other company in the world. Our business is to increase the efficiency of the telephone system. We can do that by creating competition by means of the municipalities, and it is idle to assert that we can do that by increasing the powers of those who compete with the municipalities. We ought to leave the period of the licence of the National Telephone Company unchanged, and we ought liberally to give the municipalities that power which, as representing the public, they have a right to have of managing their own telephone system.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 62; Noes 146. (Division List, No. 298.)

AYES.

Abraham William (Rhondda)
 Allan, W. (Newc. under Lyme)
 Allison, Robert Andrew
 Asher, Alexander
 Bainbridge, Emerson
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Billson, Alfred
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Caldwell, James
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Colville, John
 Davitt, Michael
 Dewar, Arthur
 Dillon, John
 Doogan, P. C.
 Duckworth, James
 Emmott, Alfred
 Fenwick, Charles

Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Gedge, Sydney
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
 Healy, T. M. (N. Louth)
 Holden, Sir Angus
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W. R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Jocey, Sir James
 Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
 Leng, Sir John
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Lough, Thomas
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Crae, George
 Maddison, Fred
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Nussey, Thomas Willans

O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Palmer, Geo. Wm. (Reading)
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Shaw, C. E. (Stafford)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
 Steadman, William Charles
 Strachey, Edward
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.)
 Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John C. (Notts.)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddsfd'
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES.—
 Mr. Buchanan and Captain
 Sinclair.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Arrol, Sir William
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. J. FitzRoy
 Baird, John George Alexander
 Balcarres, Lord
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchr)
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Brist.)
 Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
 Bethell, Commander
 Bhowaggee, Sir M. M.
 Bond, Edward
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Butcher, John George
 Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
 Carson, Rt. Hon. Edward
 Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh'e)
 Cawley, Frederick
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, E.)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. A. (Wor'cr.)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)
 Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Denny, Colonel
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Doughty, George

Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzWygram, General Sir F.
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Fletcher, Sir Henry
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
 Garfit, William
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lon.)
 Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. George's)
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert Wm.
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Hermon-Hodge, Robert Trotter
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Kemp, George
 Keswick, William
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Corn)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks)
 Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Llewellyn, Evan H. (Somerset)
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverl)
 Lowther, Rt. Hn. J. W. (Cumb'land)
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison

Macdonald, John Cumming
 McKillop, James
 Malcolm, Ian
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Middlesmore, J. Throgmorton
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Newdigate, F. Alexander
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pilkington, R. (Lancs. Newton)
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, J. Parker (Lanarks.)
 Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxford Uni.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Wm. Ed. Murray
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, Jos. Powell- (Birm.)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald

Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Wrightson, Thomas
Wylie, Alexander

Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 40, to leave out the words from the word 'but,' to the end of sub-section (1), of Clause 3, in order to insert the words 'subject as aforesaid on the terms and conditions specified in the agreement (including any provisions thereof for determination on breach of covenant), unless varied by any subsequent agreement with the local authority.'"—(*Mr. Hanbury.*)

Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill," put, and negatived.

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I have an Amendment to the Amendment, in line 2, after the word "conditions" to leave out all the words, with the view of inserting "that shall be agreed upon between the existing company and any local authority." The effect of that would be that whenever the licence is extended it would be extended upon terms which shall be agreed upon between the company and the local authority. The clause, as it at present stands, gives the power to the Post Office arbitrarily to extend the licence of the company, whereas the agreement was entered into upon the assumption that the licence was to terminate in 1911. I submit to the House, that when a licence is to be extended for another fourteen years, the municipal corporation, as representing the ratepayers, has a right to take into account the changed conditions and to impose fresh conditions. What might happen in the meantime in regard to fresh patents, no one can tell; and surely, when a new licence is to be issued, the Post Office is not the only body that ought to be consulted as to the terms. The municipal corporation ought also to be consulted as to the conditions under which the licence should be extended. As a matter of fact, the way-leaves are only granted for twelve months, and the clause as it stands takes that twelve months away and puts in, without the leave of the municipal corporation, fourteen years.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, to leave out the words from

the word "conditions," to the end of the proposed Amendment, in order to add the words "that shall be agreed upon between the existing company and the local authority."—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out to the word 'unless,' stand part of the proposed Amendment."

MR. HANBURY: The Amendment of the hon. Member would simply defeat the whole purpose of the clause, which is to prevent a municipality from using these fresh powers to confiscate the property of the National Telephone Company which they had acquired. Having taken down the overhead wires in order to give a more effective service, and having laid wires in the streets, the company have a perfect right to keep these up for the convenience of the residents. I cannot consent to a confiscation of that kind. It is quite clear that if the municipalities are to have the power to prescribe the terms upon which way-leaves are to be continued, of course it would give them the power to discontinue the way-leaves altogether.

MR. MOULTON: This use of the word "confiscation" is rather humorous. The municipality has made arrangements with the National Telephone Company, whereby the company has certain terminable way-leaves. The municipality has perfect power, at present, to give notice to terminate these way-leaves. And yet it is said to be confiscation because you do not take away this power which you have solemnly bargained they have. Suppose one municipality has agreed to give a way-leave for a lump sum. That lump sum was made small because the municipality had the power of terminating the way-leave. But by this clause you extend the term of the way-leave for 14 years without any compensation. Suppose, again, that another municipality has granted a way-leave on the terms of an annual rent, then, if you extend the powers, the annual rent goes on. It seems to me that the word "unfairness" does not strike the mind of any member of the Government unless it is

unfair to the National Telephone Company. If we were to propose any regulation to deal with the National Telephone Company comparable to this clause, we should be denounced as confiscators of the property of the Company. But the Government do not take the trouble to inquire as to whether they are dealing

equally and equitably with the municipalities and the National Telephone Company.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 135; Noes, 45. (Division List, No. 299.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Cameron, Sir Chas. (Glasgow)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Edward
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
Cawley, Frederick
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Capt. R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worcester)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Hereford)
Cox, Irwin E. Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Curzon, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Denny, Colonel
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.

Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzWygram, General Sir F.
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of London)
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans)
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. George's)
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. Wm.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hermion-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel, Captain Herbt. Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kemp, George
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn.)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks)
Lea, Sir T. (Londonderry)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewellyn, E. H. (Somerset)
Lockwood, Lieut.-Colonel A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverpool)
Lowther, Rt. Hon. J. W. (Cumbria)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
McArthur, C. (Liverpool)
McKillop, James
Malcolm, Ian

Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Milward, Colonel Victor
Monk, Charles James
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Parkes, Ebenezer
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Seely, Charles Hilton
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Smith, J. Parker (Lanarks.)
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Oxford U.)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
Wrightson, Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allen, W. (New-under-Lyme)
Asher, Alexander
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Billson, Alfred
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Caldwell, James
Channing, Francis Allston
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
Colville, John

Davitt, Michael
Dewar, Arthur
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Duckworth, James
Emmott, Alfred
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Hayne, Rt. Hon. C. Seale-
Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
Horniman, Frederick John

Joicey, Sir James
Jones, W. (Carnarvonshire)
Labouchere, Henry
Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
Lough, Thomas
Macaleese, Daniel
McCrae, George
Maddison, Fred
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Palmer, G. W. (Reading)

Pirie, Duncan V.
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Shaw, Charles E. (Stafford)
 Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.

Steadman, William Charles
 Strachey, Edward
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer

Williams, J. Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersfield)
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Lloyd-George and Mr.
 Moulton.

SIR J. T. WOODHOUSE: I beg to move that, in line 4 of the Amendment, the word "unless" be omitted, with the view of inserting, "except in so far as may be." What the Government propose to do is to maintain the terms and conditions of the agreement which at present exist between the local authority and the National Telephone Company, unless varied by subsequent agreement. I want to limit the variation and to maintain the right of the local authority as against the National Telephone Company.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: Does that mean that the agreement will still stand, in spite of the new enactment that is passed?

*MR. SPEAKER: That does not arise on this Amendment.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: It was stated by the hon. Member for Huddersfield, that some of the municipalities in the country had the right of determining, on six months' notice, their agreement with the National Telephone Company as to way-leaves. I desire to know whether that right is taken away by this clause or not.

MR. HANBURY: It is taken away.

Proposed Amendment amended, by leaving out the word "unless," and inserting the words "except so far as they may be."—(Sir James Woodhouse.)

Words, as amended, inserted.

Another Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 2, after the words last inserted, to insert the words, '(2) Where an existing company is at the passing of this Act under a licence from the Postmaster-General supplying public telephonic communication in any exchange area, a licence to provide a system of public telephonic communication within the same area, or any part thereof, shall not be granted by the Postmaster-General to any person or body other than the council of a borough or urban district, unless it is shown to the satisfaction of the Postmaster-General that the application for the licence is

approved by the council of every borough or urban district, any part of which is situate within the area specified in the application."

—(Mr. Hanbury.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. BUCHANAN: I think this is a new sub-section, and that we ought to have some explanation of its object.

MR. HANBURY: This is practically the sub-section moved by the hon. Member for Hoxton in the Grand Committee. The Treasury Minute of 1892 states that no licence should be granted to a new company, except with the consent of the authorities of the area concerned. This sub-section is to prevent bogus companies being started. Any company in future will not be regarded as *bona fide* unless it secures the consent of the local authorities.

SIR J. JOICEY: I must confess this appears a peculiar sub-section to put into the Bill. At present the Post Office has complete control over the granting of licences, and, in using that power, must exercise some supervision. It is now proposed to hand that power over to the local authorities, and I cannot understand what has induced the Government to take that course. I am bound to say I will not support this sub-clause, and I shall feel it my duty to vote against it.

*MR. FAITHFULL BEGG: This addition to the clause has been put in in order to stereotype the provision which was incorporated in the Treasury Minute of 1892. That is the genesis of this proposal, and the right hon. Gentleman is only carrying out a pledge that he gave upstairs.

MR. MOULTON: This clause is one of the many indications that this Bill has been drawn up in favour of the National Telephone Company. It is stated to be for the purpose of preventing bogus companies, but it should apply generally or not at all. This ties the hands of the

Post Office, if there is an existing company, and leaves them free if there is not. I quite approve of the municipality having an influential voice as to whether new companies should come into their area or not, but it is the public interest that ought to be protected and not the interest of the existing company. The National Telephone Company, which can manage us, has only to induce a local authority to oppose the granting of a licence to a competing company, and it can keep it out. Therefore the Amendment is for the purpose of protecting the existing company.

SIR J. T. WOODHOUSE: I beg to move that "each" be substituted for "every" before "borough" in the last line but one of the Amendment, and that the words after "district" in the same line to the end of the section be omitted,

and that the following words be inserted:

"Within which it is proposed by application to establish a telephone exchange."

The object is to make the proposal of the Government perfectly clear.

Amendment amended by leaving out the word "every," and inserting the word "each"; by leaving out the words "any part of," and inserting the word "within"; and by leaving out from the word "which," to the end, and inserting the words "it is proposed by the application to establish a telephonic exchange."—*(Sir James Woodhouse.)*

Question put, "That the words, as amended, be there inserted."

The House divided:—Ayes, 138; Noes, 27. (Division List, No. 300.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir Wm. Reynell
Arrol, Sir William
Asher, Alexander
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Baird, John Geo. Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt. Hn. Gerald W. (Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Beckett, Ernest William
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brockrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbys.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Capt. R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd)
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Curzon, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Denny, Colonel
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph

Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duckworth, James
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. Hart
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir R. Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzWygram, General Sir F.
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. George's
Goschen, G. J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert W.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hermon-Hodge, R. Trotter
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel, Captain H. Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Kemp, George
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Labouchere, Henry
Lawrence, Sir E. D. (Cornw'll
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine

Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Liverpool)
Lough, Thomas
Lowther, Rt. Hn. J. W. (Cumb'land
Lloyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
McArthur, Charles (Liverpool)
McCrae, George
McKillop, James
Maddison, Fred.
Malcolm, Ian
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milward, Colonel Victor
Monk, Charles James
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, George W. (Reading)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Seely, Charles Hilton
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Trevelyan, Charles Philipps

Valentia, Viscount
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald

Wodehouse, Rt. Hn E. R. (Bath)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hud'sfield)
 Wrightson, Thomas
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.

Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Billson, Alfred
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Caldwell, James
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh)
 Colville, John
 Davitt, Michael

Dewar, Arthur
 Dillon, John
 Doogan, P. C.
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Lloyd-George, David
 Macaleese, Daniel
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)

Pirie, Duncan V.
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Shaw, Charles E. (Stafford)
 Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
 Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
 Strachey, Edward
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir James Joicey and Mr.
 Moulton.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR: The Amendment which I wish to move is to add at the end the following words :

“ Provided always that all licences issued or extended after the passing of this Act shall be subject to the provisions of any general Act relating to telephonic communication.”

It is perfectly clear that, although the National Telephone Company will emerge from this discussion under certain restrictions and regulations, it is in reality much more strongly entrenched in its present privileges than ever. The object of my Amendment is to apply the limitations and regulations which, in the public interest, have been applied to other trading concerns. Railway enterprises are subject to the general regulation of railways, and it is the same with electric lighting and other industrial concerns, and I think a similar provision ought to apply to the particular branch of industry we are dealing with at the present time

MR. HANBURY: I am not aware there are any general Acts.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR: I am referring to future Acts.

***MR. SPEAKER:** We cannot deal with future Acts of Parliament. The Amendment is not in order,

MR. BUCHANAN: I appeal to the First Lord of the Treasury as to whether the time has not arrived when we might adjourn this discussion. Hon. Gentlemen will not deny that this is a very important measure and that it is a different Bill from the measure which was considered in Committee. The new

clauses undoubtedly involve very important principles.

***MR. SPEAKER:** Is the hon. Gentleman going to move the adjournment of the Debate ?

MR. BUCHANAN: Yes, Sir, I meant to conclude with that motion.

***MR. SPEAKER:** I cannot accept the motion for the adjournment at this hour.

MR. BUCHANAN: Then, Sir, I will move the omission of Sub-section 2. This sub-section seeks to justify the statement made this evening by the right hon. Gentleman that we are taking away from the sphere of operations of the Telephone Company a large part of the United Kingdom. I venture to submit that in reality we are doing nothing of the kind. The National Telephone Company has enjoyed for many years a general licence to go where it pleased, and it has gone into the profitable parts of the country, leaving alone those parts which are not profitable, and I therefore do not believe that we will substantially hinder the company.

Amendment proposed—

“ In page 3, line 3, to leave out Sub-section (2), of Clause 3.”—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out to the word ‘without,’ in line 3, stand part of the Bill.”

MR. HANBURY: I really believe that the hon. Member must be a friend of the National Telephone Company. Although

he may throw doubt on some of the concessions we have got from the Telephone Company, there can be no doubt that this is an important one. I cannot suppose the hon. Member brought forward this motion merely for the purpose of obstructing the Bill, and therefore it must be a *bonâ fide* Amendment, which is in the interest of no one except the Telephone Company.

SIR J. JOICEY: I protest against the accusation the right hon. Gentleman has made against my hon. friend, and I appeal to the House as to whether it is deserved. The right hon. Gentleman is so full of the Telephone Company that he thinks no one takes an interest in this Bill except the company and its friends. We have been told over and over again that this Bill has been brought forward in the interests of competition, but this clause would practically prohibit competition. It means that there shall be no competition in any area except where competition now exists. From what I have seen, I believe that the National Telephone Company is just as good a competitor as any other licensee of the Post Office.

Question put and agreed to.

Other Amendments made.

*MR. FAITHFULL BEGG: The object of this Amendment is to provide that any district which is withdrawn from the license of the Telephone Company shall be provided with an efficient telephone service. Whether these districts be profitable districts or not, I think we should have an assurance that they will be provided with a telephone service by the Post Office, or in some other way. If the right hon. Gentleman will give me an undertaking that these districts will be provided for then my amendment will be unnecessary. The National Telephone Company have set up exchanges in the most profitable parts of the country, and have neglected the districts where the population is sparse and the towns are small. What is wanted is a guarantee that these districts which are unable to provide for themselves will be given telephonic communication.

Another Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 7, after the word 'exchange,' to insert the words, 'Provided always

that such consent shall not be withheld unless, within two years from the date of the passing of this Act, an effective exchange shall have been established within such area by the Postmaster-General, or by a local authority, or by a new company acting under a licence from the Postmaster-General." -- (Mr. Faithfull Begg.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. HANBURY: I think my hon. friend is mistaken in thinking that thinly populated districts are less profitable than thickly populated districts. The experience of foreign countries is to the contrary, and there is no reason why competition should not be started in these areas. With regard to the period of two years which my hon. friend proposes in order to guard against the starting of bogus companies, that has been already provided for, by the fact that the Postmaster General is not likely to grant a licence to any company not of a *bonâ fide* character, and the locality will also have considerable control over the matter.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR: In my opinion there is some confusion on the point. It is quite clear that in a crowded centre where the company get subscribers beyond a certain number, the exchange becomes a very costly matter; but the National Telephone Company knows its business, and it is because certain districts are not profitable that it has left them alone. If the Government had not taken steps to extend the licence of the company beyond 1911, we should in eleven years have all the power in our own hands.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

CAPT. SINCLAIR: I beg to move to omit Sub-section 3 of Clause 3. Really this is one of the most important clauses in the Bill. We had a long discussion this evening on the first sub-section of this clause, and the House will remember that there was great opposition to the proposal contained in it. The proposal now before us is even a greater violation of the principle which should govern telephonic legislation. The Government now propose to enact that where a municipality obtains legal rights and lays out money for the purpose of establishing a telephone system, the licence of the National

Telephone Company for that area shall be extended if the licence of the municipality runs beyond 1911. This part of the clause which I desire to omit gives precisely the same privileges to the National Telephone Company in cases where they have not secured way-leave rights, and have no right whatever to a concession. I cannot see how this can be justified. The right hon. Gentleman himself is the strongest witness we can call in support of the statement that this is an entirely new departure in the telephone legislation of this country, and I do hope that the House will realise that its effect will be merely to strengthen the position of the National Telephone Company. Hon. Members interested in this Bill are obliged by the rules of the House to carry on the discussion under great disadvantages, but, in spite of these disadvantages, I hope the House will realise how very important this Amendment is.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 3, line 8, to leave out the words of Sub-section 3 of Clause 3.” — (*Captain Sinclair.*)

Question proposed, “That the word ‘Where’ stand part of the Bill.”

MR. BUCHANAN: This sub-section is distinctly in favour of the National Telephone Company, because it proposes to extend its licence beyond 1911, not only in districts where it has secured way-leaves, but in the other cases set out in the sub-section. This is a most important question, and is the cause of all the opposition to the Bill, and will be the cause of opposition throughout the length and breadth of the land if the Bill becomes law. The right hon. Gentleman has given way to the pressure exercised by the National Telephone Company, and has been obliged to extend a privilege which he himself said only a short time ago ought not to be granted. He himself told us that one of the greatest securities the country had for the development of telephonic communication was that the licence of the National Telephone Company would cease in 1911. We had hoped that we would have been in a position to establish a really national system, but that hope is now postponed for a generation. I think the Government have sacrificed the in-

terests of the public to the interests of the company, with the result that we cannot have a proper national system in this country for a quarter of a century.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I entirely agree as to the extreme inconvenience of the manner in which we are compelled to discuss this Bill. It is a striking example of the steady and rapid degradation of Parliamentary procedure. I remember a few years ago the present Leader of the House laying down in an eloquent and powerful speech the principle on which these Bills ought to be dealt with.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member's remarks are not relevant to the question before the House.

MR. DILLON: I will not pursue the subject, Sir. I was merely about to point out that we are debating what is practically a new Bill, which has not passed through Committee, and which is of enormous importance. This sub-section is undoubtedly a surrender on the part of the Government to one of the most persistent and powerful systems of lobbying I have ever witnessed during the eighteen years I have been in this House. Not content with confronting every Member in the Lobby, it has infested every part of the House with its influence, and this clause is one of its chief results. I have great admiration for the manner in which the right hon. Gentleman struggled against tremendous influences to emancipate the telephone interests of this country, but the result only confirms me in the opinion I formed very early in these discussions, that the best and cheapest way to deal with such a monopoly is to buy it out as soon as possible. My conviction is that every year added to the life of a company adds to the price you will have to pay to purchase it, and the more it will be able to secure from the community. We were led to believe that the principle would be used to whittle down the property of the National Telephone Company, and that when its licence expired the company could be extinguished at less cost. I venture to say that when the company is eventually bought out the public will have to pay four times the price for it that it could be purchased for now, and the public will look back with longing eyes on the amount for which

Capt. Sinclair.

they could have bought out the company. Nobody desires to confiscate the property of the company, but the Post Office ought to exercise its right to purchase it at a reasonable price, which would honestly repay the outlay of the shareholders. We are now asked to part with that right, and the result will be to establish a practical monopoly, and ultimately I venture to say that the public will be compelled to meet the company on its own terms. Just as at present we are being asked to pay £860,000 to the Niger Company for a charter which contains a clause empowering the Government to revoke it, so by-and-by there will be another transference of public money to the telephone company for rights conferred on it by Act of Parliament.

MR. MOULTON: It is a curious commentary on the fashion of putting two companies on equal terms to say, according to this clause, that if the National Telephone Company has its licence extended because a licence has been granted to a new company, that extension will

not be on the terms given to the new company, but on the extravagantly liberal terms on which the original licence was granted to the National Company.

MR. HANBURY: The hon. Member is entirely mistaken; it will not be on the old terms, but on the new terms.

MR. MOULTON: I beg the right hon. Gentleman's pardon. It is perfectly true that these two things called concessions will be inserted in the extended licence, but otherwise the provisions of the original licence of the National Company will remain in force. The consequence is that one company will be under the control of the Post Office, and the National Company will be practically without control. And that is called putting them on equal terms!

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 108; Noes, 38. (Division List, No. 301.)

AYES.

Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Brist'l)
Beckett, Ernest William
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
Bethell, Commander
Bigwood, James
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lanes.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (D'rbyshire)
Cawley, Frederick
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)
Curzon, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of
Denny, Colonel
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. H.

Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn E.
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robt. Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzWygram, General Sir F.
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Foster, Col. W. H. (Lancaster)
Gedge, Sydney
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Rbt. Wm.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kemp, George
Keswick, William
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Corn)
Lawrence, W. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverpool)
Lowther, Rt. Hon. J. W. (Cumb.)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdonald, John Cumming
McKillop, James
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton

Milward, Colonel Victor
Monk, Charles James
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Seely, Charles Hilton
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Smith, J. Parker (Lanarks.)
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Edw. J. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
Wrightson, Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berk's, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondra)
 Asher, Alexander
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Billson, Alfred
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Caldwell, James
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Colville, John
 Dewar, Arthur
 Dillon, John
 Doogan, P. C.
 Duckworth, James
 Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)

Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. C. Seale-
 Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Lough, Thomas
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Crae, George
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Palmer, George W. (Reading)
 Pirie, Duncan V.

Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Shaw, Charles E. (Stafford)
 Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John C. (Notts.)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hudders.)
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Captain Sinclair and Sir
 James Joicey.

DR. CLARK: On behalf of the hon. Member for East Edinburgh, I beg to move, in Clause 3, page 3, line 8, to leave out "a local authority, or." I want to appeal to the right hon. Gentleman to accept this Amendment. I think the Government have been very fair so far as the first portion of the clause is concerned, that where the National Company has spent a large amount of money on way-leaves, we ought to give them time to get it back. I think any new company ought not to have a special privilege any more than the National Telephone Company, but when you are dealing with a local authority it is an entirely different matter. If any corporation spend their money on a telephone system, the profits will go to the citizens. I am against a monopoly either to the National Telephone Company or to a new company. I am only in favour of a monopoly to the State or municipality, where the citizens get the benefit of the profits.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 8, to leave out the words 'a local authority or.'"—(*Dr. Clark.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'a local authority or' stand part of the Bill."

MR. HANBURY: I am glad that the hon. Member admits that when a new company gets a licence, it is perfectly fair and legitimate that the licence of the National Company should be extended. I can see no distinction between the competition of a new company and that of the local authority, except that the competition of the local authority may be more vigorous. In resisting the Amendment I am following the suggestion of the Select Committee.

MR. LABOUCHERE: We are not absolutely the slaves of the Select Committee. We respect the Committee very much, but surely we are not to be put out every minute by the statement that the Select Committee did this or that. I think the distinction which my hon. friend has drawn between the local authority and a company is a fair and legitimate one. The company competes only for the benefit of its own shareholders, whereas the municipality represents the public, and carries on the business for the public. We have very great difficulty in knowing how to vote. I observe that the front bench on this side of the House is empty. We are as sheep without one single shepherd. I am certain that a great many hon. Gentlemen take a deep interest in this matter. I would like, for instance, to know what the right hon. Member for Wolverhampton thinks of it. I hope my right hon. friend will really consider this Amendment, which I think a fair one.

MR. DILLON: The right hon. Gentleman referred to the finding of the Select Committee for this provision in the Bill. But this provision was put in in the Grand Committee, and was not suggested by the Select Committee. It is a very fair position to take up, that if a new company is allowed to compete, the two companies ought to be put in the same position. My objection is not to the facilities being given to the National Company as opposed to a new company, but as opposed to the municipality or the State. It is an extraordinary position for the right hon. Gentleman to take up, to say that the same protection should be given to the National Company as against a municipality, as against a new company. He goes even further, and says that the competition of a

municipality would be stronger than that of a new company. But the competition of the municipality is a competition of the people for their own sake. Therefore, to put upon the same footing the competition of the municipality, which represents the ratepayers, and the competition of a new company, which seeks dividends for its shareholders, is, in my opinion, perfectly preposterous. I trust the Amendment will be pushed to a Division.

MR. COLVILLE: There is another substantial reason why this Amendment

should be accepted, and that is that many municipalities decline absolutely to grant way-leaves to the National Telephone Company.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: I would like to ask the Government how long they intend to sit. It is now half-past one, and I would suggest that after the Division the discussion should be adjourned.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 103; Noes, 33. (Division List, No. 302.)

AYES.

Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. J. FitzRoy
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Barton, Dunbar Plunkett
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Beckett, Ernest William
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
Bethell, Commander
Bigwood, James
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cawley, Frederick
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r.)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Herefd)
Curzon, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of
Denny, Colonel
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.

Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William H.
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Gedge, Sydney
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. Geo's)
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston William (Belfast)
Kemp, George
Keswick, William
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Corn.)
Lawrence, W. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverp'l)
Lloyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
McKillop, James

Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milward, Colonel Victor
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chs. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Seely, Charles Hilton
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks)
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Edw. J. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray

Valentia, Viscount
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Wrightson, Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrand and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Asher, Alexander
Billson, Alfred
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Caldwell, James
Channing, Francis Allston
Colville, John
Dewar, Arthur
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Duckworth, James
Hayne, Rt. Hon. C. Seale-

Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
Horniman, Frederick John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
Macalessie, Daniel
McCrae, George
Moulton, John Fletcher
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Palmer, George W. (Reading)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh

Shaw, Chas. Edw. (Stafford)
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hudd'rsf'd)
TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Dr. Clark and Mr.
Labouchere.

Other Amendments made.

Another Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 19, to leave out the words from the word 'exceed' to the end of paragraph (c), and insert the words 'the maximum rates and (where the company are empowered to lay underground wires) shall not fall below the minimum rates authorised in that behalf by the Postmaster-General within the area specified in the new licences.'" — (*Mr. Hanbury.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: I have not moved the adjournment of the discussion until a substantial Amendment has been reached, which will take another hour's Debate. I beg to move that the discussion be now adjourned.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the Debate be now adjourned." — (*Mr. T. P. O'Connor.*)

SIR J. JOICEY: I beg to support the motion. This Bill has really been discussed amid great difficulties, because there have been so many new clauses, and I think it is very much in the interest of the Government that they should accept the adjournment.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (MR. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I trust the hon. Gentleman will not press his motion. We are now within measurable distance of the conclusion of our labours on this Bill, and I think it would be in the interest of the whole House, in the interest of the remaining business of the session, and in the interest, let me add, of an early holiday, that we should finish the Bill at this sitting.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 27; Noes, 108. (Division List, No. 303.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Asher, Alexander
Billson, Alfred
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Caldwell, James
Channing, Francis Allston
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
Colville, John
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.

Duckworth, James
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
Horniman, Frederick John
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
Macaleese, Daniel
M'Crae, George
Moulton, John Fletcher
Palmer, George Wm. (Reading)

Pirie, Duncan V.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan E.)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. T. P. O'Connor and Sir
James Joicey.

NOES.

Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline Fitz Roy
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Beckett, Ernest William
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
Bethell, Commander
Bigwood, James
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cawley, Frederick
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.

Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)
Curzon, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of
Denny, Colonel
Dewar, Arthur
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellows, Hon. Ailwyn Edwd.
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Gedge, Sydney
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. George's)
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)

Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. W.
Hare, Thomas Leig.
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kemp, George
Keswick, William
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Corn)
Lawrence, W. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdonald, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Killop, James
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milward, Colonel Victor

Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Ht. Hon. A.G. (Bute)
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matt. W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)

Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
 Stanhope, Hon. Philip J.
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Talbot, Lord E. Chichester
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Valentia, Viscount

Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E.R. (Bath)
 Woodhouse, Sir J.T. (Huddersf'd)
 Wrightson, Thomas
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir
 William Walrond and Mr.
 Anstruther.

Original Question again proposed.

*MR. PROVAND: I would ask the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill to reconsider the terms of this proposal. It allows the existing company to make its rate as high as it pleases, which permits a very great latitude to the company. The terms are different with regard to the low rates which may be fixed by the Postmaster-General. I think we should have some limitation with regard to the minimum rates, and not allow the Telephone Company to compete unfairly with the local authority, or another company. Why should not the power of making the rates too low be taken away from the company? It has been stated by the right hon. Gentleman, again and again, that competition should be fair; but competition cannot be fair if one company is allowed to make the rates so low as to practically prevent competition at all. I am not much concerned about Glasgow and Edinburgh, I am speaking in the interests of the smaller local authorities, which have not a large amount of capital at their back. It is impossible that any small local authority could maintain competition against the National Company if the company said, "If you make your rate £4, we will make ours £3; and if you make your rate £3, we will make ours £2." The local authorities have to get the money on the security of the rates, and the ratepayers might say, "You must not compete with the company, because we do not want to risk losing our money."

MR. HANBURY: I think the hon. Gentleman will see that a distinction must be drawn where way-leaves have been granted, and where they have been refused. As a matter of fact, if the

Telephone Company so unduly abused its rights as to make competition impossible, it would be quite within the power of the Postmaster-General to intervene.

Question put, and negatived.

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR J. T. WOODHOUSE: It has been decided by the Court of Appeal, in the case of Glasgow, that local authorities are compelled to give to the telephones the rights which the Post Office have. This is an alteration very different from what the right hon. Gentleman explained to the Grand Committee.

MR. HANBURY: The words are an improvement on the words in the original Bill, and my hon. friend is mistaken in supposing that the decision to which he refers can possibly apply to the Amendment.

MR. MOULTON: I do not think the right hon. gentleman can understand the point raised by the hon. Member. The point is, that where the company is empowered to lay underground wires, the minimum rate shall not fall below the minimum rates authorised by the Post Office.

MR. HANBURY: I am quite prepared to insert after the word "empowered" the words "by agreement with the local authority."

MR. COLVILLE: If the company can lower its rate to any extent, no corporation can compete against it.

MR. HANBURY: The minimum rate must extend over the whole exchange area. Take the case of Glasgow and

Govan. These are in the same exchange area: one has way-leaves and the other has not. If the Glasgow Corporation applied for licences even over their own area, Govan would have the right to have the minimum rate fixed, and it would apply just as well to Govan as to Glasgow.

MR. COLVILLE: In the event of Glasgow declining to grant rights to open streets it is expressly provided that the National Telephone Company shall have the right to an unlimited extent to accept licences at unremunerative rates in order to cut down competition.

Proposed Amendment amended, by inserting after the word "empowered" the words "by agreement with the local authority."

Words, as amended, inserted.

Another Amendment made.

Amendment proposed in

"Page 3, line 24, to leave out the words from the word 'period' to the word 'but' in line 25, in order to insert the words, 'specified in the

new licence of the local authority or new company for the duration of such new licence.'"—
(*Mr. Hanbury.*)

Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill," put and negatived.

Question proposed—"That those words be there inserted."

MR. MOULTON: I understand that these words have been proposed in order to meet the danger that this clause would apply to original licences. I am quite sure these words have been chosen for the purposes of meeting the danger, but I do not think it will do so. If the right hon. Gentleman considers the point he will see that the clause will cover every licence.

MR. HANBURY: I have acted under legal advice in the matter, and my advice is that in every case of extension a period of twenty years will be specified.

Question put.

The House divided: Ayes, 101; Noes, 25.—(Division List No. 304).

AYES.

Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Man.)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bris.)
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
Bethell, Commander
Bigwood, James
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lanes.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)
Curzon, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of
Denny, Colonel
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir W. Hart
Farrell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward

Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Baunatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Gedge, Sydney
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. Geo's)
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kemp, George
Keswick, William
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn.)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverp'l)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cunningham
McArthur, Charles (Liverpool)
McKillop, James
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milward, Colonel Victor

Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edw.
Purvis, Robert
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Seely, Charles Hilton
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lanes.)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Valentia, Viscount
Warde, Lieut. Col. C. E. (Kent)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd)
Wrightson, Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

Mr. Hanbury.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondla)
Asher, Alexander
Billson, Alfred
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Caldwell, James
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
Doogan, P. C.
Duckworth, James
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)

Horniman, Frederick John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
Macaleese, Daniel
M'Crae, George
Palmer, George Wm. (Reading)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)

Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan E.)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Mculton and Mr.
Colville.

Other Amendments made.

Amendment proposed :—

"In page 3, line 27, at end, to add—' (5) If the licence of an existing company is, under the provisions of this section, extended in respect of any exchange area for a period of not less than eight years beyond the term existing at the passing of this Act, the company shall, at the request of any other licensee of the Postmaster-General providing public telephonic communication in the whole or any part of that exchange area, and under such circumstances and on such terms and conditions as may, within six months from the passing of this Act, be prescribed by an order of the Postmaster-General, made with the approval of the Treasury, afford all proper facilities for the transmission of telephonic messages between persons using the system of the company (either in the whole or in part of the exchange area, as the Postmaster-General may prescribe) and persons using the system of such other licensee, provided that the licensee so requiring inter-communication shall in any such case afford similar facilities. (6) For the purposes of this section the expression "exchange area" means an exchange area as defined by any agreement made by an existing company with the Postmaster-General before the passing of this Act.'"—(*Mr. Hanbury.*)

Question proposed—"That those words be there added."

MR. BUCHANAN : The clause moved by the right hon. Gentleman relates to inter-communication with the various authorities, and is in substitution for the clause on the Paper in the name of the hon. Member for Huddersfield. As I understand it, it does not seem so general as that of the hon. Member. There are several limitations on inter-communication which I hope the right hon. Gentleman will explain.

MR. HANBURY : It is only where there is a *bona fide* extension of the licence that the concession of inter-communication is granted. When the subscribers to a corporation exchange are equal to

one-half of the subscribers of the company, then there is to be absolutely free communication between the two exchanges, without the payment of a penny. That is a considerable concession on the part of the National Company. But even where the corporation subscribers are only a fourth in number of those of the National Company they can get inter-communication at the cost of a penny.

SIR J. JOICEY : I think this is a most valuable concession made by the National Company in exchange for the concessions they have got. It will practically solve many of the difficulties that exist where there are several systems in the same area.

Question put, and agreed to.

*MR. FAITHFULL BEGG : The object of the new clause I now beg to move is to provide that a new licence when granted shall be put in effective operation. Provisional orders have been granted for electric lighting in 1890 and 1891, which have not been made use of yet. I think my right hon. friend will see that this is a reasonable provision, and that where licences are granted they should not be allowed to be bottled up.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 27, after the word 'force' to insert the words,—'It shall be a condition of every licence granted to a local authority or to a new company after the passing of this Act, that such local authority or such new company shall, within two years from the date of the granting of such licence, open and maintain an effective exchange within the area included in such licence, otherwise the said licence shall be cancelled and shall absolutely cease and determine, and no compensation shall be payable to such local authority or such new company in respect of such cancellation.'"—(*Mr. Faithfull Begg.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. HANBURY: I think my hon. friend may be satisfied that no licence will be granted to any company or corporation unless there is an absolute assurance that there is a considerable number of subscribers.

*MR. FAITHFULL BEGG: With the leave of the House I beg to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Bill to be read the third time to-morrow.

MR. BUCHANAN: Will the Bill be reprinted?

MR. HANBURY: No; it will not be reprinted.

GORDON MEMORIAL COLLEGE AT KHARTOUM BILL [H.L.]

Considered in Committee, and reported, without Amendment; Bill read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

ISLE OF MAN (CUSTOMS) BILL.
Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

MR. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the chair.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanark, Mid): I understand that the Isle of Man gives a fixed contribution to the Exchequer of £10,000 a year. Is the increase of duties fixed by this Bill to go into the Treasury of the Isle of Man, or into the Imperial Exchequer? I want to know what is the arrangement between the Isle of Man and the Treasury as regards these funds.

Bill reported, without Amendment; read the third time, and passed.

TELEGRAPH (CHANNEL ISLANDS) BILL.

SECOND READING.

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion read and Question proposed: "That the Bill be now read a second time."

MR. CALDWELL: We have had no explanation in regard to this Bill. Surely after two o'clock in the morning the Government might give us some explanation of their Bills. It ought to be remembered on the other side that it is the privilege and the duty of the Opposition to discuss Government measures. By this procedure of pushing Bills through at this time of the morning, the Government are depriving hon. Members of a constitutional right. I am bound to point out to the Government that in introducing this novel method of preventing fair discussion they will not be able to complain if future Governments were to follow their example. Therefore, we should have some explanation of this Bill.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: This is a non-controversial Bill, and there can be no objection to its passing.

MR. CALDWELL: The arrangement was made that the Bill might be taken, but that, if necessary, it should be discussed.

MR. HANBURY: The Telegraph Acts originally did not extend to the Channel Islands, and there is no means of protecting the Postmaster-General from injury by local undertakings. What is proposed by the Bill is to protect the Postmaster-General from hostile telegraphs.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time and committed for to-morrow.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (DEFECTIVE AND EPILEPTIC CHILDREN) BILL [Lords].

Read a second time, and committed for to-morrow.

Whereupon, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 17th day of this instant July, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

House adjourned at thirty minutes after Two of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 26th July 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN
AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND
WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES
AMALGAMATION BILL.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN
RAILWAY BILL.
WATERFORD AND CENTRAL IRELAND
RAILWAY BILL.

Special Report from the Select Com-
mittee brought up, and read.

The Committee reported with respect
to the Great Southern and Western Rail-
way Bill and the Waterford and Central
Ireland Railway Bill.

(Paragraph 10.)
“That they recommend that notwith-
standing the readiness of the promoters
to proceed with the Great Southern and
Western Railway Bill, and so fulfil their
pledge, it is advisable, having regard to
the period of the session which has been
reached, that the Order for the committal
of that Bill, and the Instruction relating
thereto, be discharged.

“The Waterford and Central Ireland
Railway Bill is a Bill for extension of
time only, but as it seems impossible that
the Bill should pass through all its stages
in the present session, the Committee
recommend that the Order for the Com-
mittal of that Bill also be discharged, and
that both Bills be withdrawn.”

Special Report to lie upon the Table,
and to be printed.

Minutes of Proceedings to be printed.
(No. 290.)

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN
RAILWAY BILL AND WATERFORD
AND CENTRAL IRELAND RAILWAY
BILL.

Motion made, and Question proposed,
“That the Great Southern and Western
Railway Bill and the Waterford and Central
Ireland Railway Bill be withdrawn.”
—(*Mr. James William Lowther.*)

VOL. LXXV. [FOURTH SERIES.]

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): I
think in a matter so important as this,
affecting as it does the interests of the
whole of Ireland, that whatever is done
should be done after due notice.

*MR. SPEAKER: Does the hon. Mem-
ber propose to object?

MR. T. M. HEALY: I do, Sir.

*MR. SPEAKER: In that case it must
go over till To-morrow.

Debate adjourned until To-morrow.

BAKER STREET AND WATERLOO
RAILWAY BILL.

DERBY CORPORATION TRAMWAYS,
ETC., BILL.

LONDON UNITED TRAMWAYS
BILL.

REDDITCH GAS BILL.

STOCKPORT CORPORATION BILL.

Lords Amendments considered and
agreed to.

CROMER PROTECTION BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered; to be read
the third time.

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY (GENE-
RAL POWERS) BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered; Amendments
made; Bill to be read the third time.

GREAT YARMOUTH WATER BILL
[Lords].

As amended, considered; a clause
added; Bill to be read the third time.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY BILL
[Lords].

As amended, considered; to be read
the third time.

OLDHAM CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered; Amendments
made; Bill to be read the third time.

WOLVERHAMPTON TRAMWAYS BILL
[Lords].

As amended, considered; to be read
the third time.

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION
(No. 2) BILL [Lords].

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION
(No. 3) BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered; to be read
the third time To-morrow.

N

PETITIONS.

OUT-DOOR RELIEF (FRIENDLY SOCIETIES) ACT, 1894.

Petition from Paisley, for extension to Scotland ; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petition from Queen's Park, Chelsea, in favour ; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN.

Petition from Burnley, for alteration of law ; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANKS.

Return presented relative thereto [ordered 20th July, *Sir John William Maclure*] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 297.]

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP (DANGEROUS TRADES) COMMITTEE.

Copy presented of Fourth Interim Report of the Departmental Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department to inquire into and report upon certain miscellaneous dangerous trades, Supplementary Report and Evidence on the manufacture and use of Grindstones, and on File Cutting [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS (DIFFERENT MEAL HOURS) (SPINNING OF ARTIFICIAL SILK).

Copy presented, of Order made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, dated 20th July, 1899, extending to Factories or Workshops in which the spinning of Artificial Silk is carried on the special exceptions with regard to Meal Hours contained in Section 52 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL TAXATION LICENCES, 1898-9.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 21st July ; *Mr. T. W. Russell*] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 298.)

INEBRIATES ACT (1898) AMENDMENT BILL.

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate [21st June], "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Question again proposed.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) : This is a Bill which was introduced by the Government as far back as February 22, which has been kept dangling in the Order Book, and left over until a period in the session when the Government think they can get the Bill through without any discussion whatever. Before the suspension of the Twelve o'clock rule the Government passed eleven Bills, but now there are on the Order Paper seventeen Government Bills, so that practically the legislation of the session is being conducted after the suspension of the Twelve o'clock rule. The present Bill is for the purpose of amending what is alleged to be an error in the Inebriates Act that was passed last year, and it is a coincidence that that Act was passed at a similar period of the session. This is an illustration of the inexpediency of the policy which the Government adopt in driving legislation to a period of the session when it cannot be fairly considered. If the Government in that way bring in Bills which are defective, and afterwards ask for amended Bills, they cannot expect any facilities to be given to them by this House for correcting them. My contention is that there is no need for this Bill, or in the alternative that it does not go far enough. It proposes to deal with Section 2 of the Inebriates Act of 1898, which applies not merely to England, but by subsequent clauses is made to apply to Scotland and Ireland. The amendment sought to be made by this Bill relates to England only, and as there can be no question but that Clause 2 applies equally to Scotland and Ireland, why is it that the amendment now proposed is only to apply to England and not to the other countries ? By this Bill you are going to introduce a section of the Summary Procedure Act of 1879, but if you refer to the subsequent section of the Act of 1898 you find it already applies. What is the object of placing the habitual drunkards' offences in this schedule of the Summary Procedure Act of 1879 ? The moment it is placed in the schedule the Summary Procedure Act applies to

that offence as well as any other. Therefore it is not necessary. But what about the case of Ireland, to which the Summary Procedure Act does apply? Are the proceedings there to be under the Criminal Jurisdiction Act of 1855? If that is to be so, why is that not put in? I ask the right hon. Gentleman for his legal opinion as to his reason for not incorporating a section applying to Ireland. And why should Scotland be left out? Why not put in a section which will apply to Scotland? If the offence is to be an offence which is chargeable by indictment, in that case the expense ought to fall on the prosecutor. In Clause 2 it also says the offence may be one which can be punished summarily. Those words are not necessarily having regard to the Act of 1875 being placed in the schedule. If it is not already in the Act of Parliament, I should certainly object in a matter of this kind to our treating an offence against the rules of an inebriate reformatory as a summary offence. A man certainly ought to have an opportunity of meeting the charge.

*MR. JESSE COLLINGS (Birmingham, Bordesley): The hon. Gentleman has made a great deal out of a very small and simple Bill. The main Act of last year has nothing to do with this Bill, which is simply one of two clauses for the purpose of correcting omissions in the Act of last year. Under the second section of that Act the expenses of prosecution are thrown on the prosecutor; and the present Bill will put the expenses as they are placed in the case of a felony. Then under the main Act, though the Home Secretary is empowered by the Act of last year to make certain laws and regulations, no means are provided for the recovery of fines in case of breach of the regulations. The second clause of the Bill is to repair this omission.

MR. WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield): And with regard to Scotland and Ireland?

*MR. JESSE COLLINGS: Ireland and Scotland are not affected in the same way by the omission.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): I am entirely in favour of this Bill, though the

hon. Member for Mid Lanark was quite correct when he stated that, as at present framed, the Bill is not applicable to Ireland. The Act of 1898 does apply to both England and Ireland, but this Bill does not. I would respectfully ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he will not consult his colleagues at the Irish Office with a view to seeing if some words could not be added to make it apply to Ireland.

*MR. JESSE COLLINGS: I shall be glad to look into the point that has been raised by the hon. Gentleman.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): And I shall be glad to do so with regard to Scotland.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

ROYAL NIGER COMPANY BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1:—

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): On this clause I wish to move a most important Amendment. I wish to delete £865,000 in order to insert £400,000 as the sum to be issued out of the Consolidated Fund, which I think is a most generous amount. The House of Commons has not been fairly treated in this matter. It has not been supplied with the information to which it is entitled before voting such an enormous sum. When this matter first came before the House my attention was called to the fact that the alleged capital was said to be £550,000. Of that only £160,000 represents cash paid up. The rest was scrip issued as fully paid. In reply to a question which I put to the right hon. Gentleman, as to whether the paid-up capital of the company represented actual cash paid, or whether the stock had been watered, the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs stated on the authority of the company that there was actually no watering of the stock, but that the sum set out in

the Bill represented cash paid up. From the first balance-sheet of the company it appears that that is inconsistent with the truth. In the first balance-sheet (December, 1887) the authorised capital appears as £1,000,000, being 100,000 shares of £10 each; of which 66,675 shares have been issued, and £2 per share paid; 19,500 shares fully paid, issued for the purchase of assets from the United African and French companies; and 11,500 shares fully paid, issued for the purchase of goodwill. Does any man in this House pretend for a moment that the shares issued as fully paid up for the goodwill can be described as shares for which cash has been paid? The last two items are not paid-up capital, because no cash passed. This £115,000 for the purchase of the goodwill is entered on the debtor side, and the value of the goodwill is entered on the credit side; it is a double entry. But in the balance-sheet of 1889 the goodwill entry disappeared from the credit side, and in its place was the entry of "Niger Government Five per Cent. Stock, £115,000." It was therefore written off as of no value, though the amount still appears on the debtor side as fully paid-up stock. That was a very shady transaction, and we are entitled to some explanation. The paid-up capital of the company can be roughly set down at £160,000. That is the total amount of the actual cash paid up, and now we are asked to pay the company over £600,000 for that amount. It seems a somewhat large order, and one that requires careful consideration. There is another item which the House is called upon to pay—£150,000 for buildings, plant, stations, plantations, etc., in Africa, including steamers. On the credit side of the balance-sheet, dated December 31st, 1898, we find, "by buildings, land, plant, stations, slipway, workshops, plantations, etc., in Africa, including steamers and other craft as per balance-sheet, £113,282." So that we are asked to pay more for these assets of the company than the company itself values them at; and companies are not in the habit of undervaluing their assets, especially when they know that negotiations are in progress for the sale of the company. Now I turn to another point—the proposed payment of £300,000 in respect of administrative losses. You are going by your action with regard to that to set a very bad precedent, which will be closely

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watched, with the result that in all probability some day the Chartered Company of South Africa will ask for £10,000,000 for their administrative losses, which, when the time comes when you will have to take over that company, you will inevitably have to pay. The trading profits of the company have steadily increased until they have risen to £68,000 in 1897, and £94,000 in 1898. During the same time the administration was steadily losing. With the exception of the year 1893 the Niger Government lost heavily, while the trading company made from £40,000 to £90,000 profit. The total loss on the administrative branch of the concern during the last eleven years has been £300,000, while on the trading side they have made a profit of half a million. My contention is that that deficit in the administrative branch is a bogus deficit which the company have manufactured while they were paying enormous dividends, and carrying enormous sums to reserve. It is done to throw dust in the eyes of the House of Commons, and there is not a shred of a moral claim on the part of the company to be repaid a single sixpence. I fear that a precedent is being established which will eventually cost this country £10,000,000. As I have said already, these matters are largely settled by precedent. You cannot deny to the South Africa Company what you give to the Niger Company; and if this Bill passes the South Africa Company will have an irresistible claim to be recouped the deficit which has been incurred on their administrative account in Rhodesia since the Royal Charter was given. We are supposed to be buying a great and valuable empire; but it is a remarkable thing that at the very moment this Bill is introduced a Supplementary Estimate is issued for the modest sum of £70,000 towards the expenses of administering the new empire. I have no doubt that that is only the beginning, and that this £70,000 will rapidly swell to a very much larger sum, which will be the annual cost to this country of the valuable asset we are purchasing for £860,000. As a matter of fact, we are being called upon to pay this enormous sum of money in order to relieve the company of the losing portion of its concern, leaving it in full possession of the trading and profitable portion of its business. In spite of the fact that Free Trade is to be given

under the new administration of the law, the company will, for many years to come, hold the leading position in the trading of the country. I daresay that in some respects it has behaved itself better than other companies; but all chartered companies behave badly, as nobody who looks into the matter would attempt to deny. What did this company do? They obtained a charter in 1886, and in that charter there were two or three very important clauses. First of all, there is a clause, that :

"The Company shall be bound by and shall fulfil all and singular the stipulations on their part contained in the act of cession aforesaid, subject to any subsequent agreement affecting those stipulations approved by one of four Principal Secretaries of State."

Then, by Clause 14, the company is prohibited from setting up or granting a monopoly of trade :

* Nothing in this our charter shall be deemed to authorise the company to set up or grant any monopoly of trade, and subject only to customs duties and charges as hereby authorised and to restrictions on importations similar in character to those applicable in our United Kingdom trade with the company's territories under our protection shall be free, and there shall be no differential treatment of the subjects of any Power as to settlement or access to markets, but foreigners alike with British subjects will be subject to administrative dispositions in the interests of commerce and of order."

Now, let us examine the conduct of the company in regard to this prohibition of monopoly. The very instant they got the charter they set to work in every possible way to set up a monopoly, and in it they completely and absolutely succeeded. In support of that statement I will quote the letter of Lord Salisbury. What does he say ?

"There are, moreover, other urgent reasons for the step now contemplated. The West African Frontier Force, now under Imperial officers, calls for direct Imperial control; the situation created towards other firms by the commercial position of the company which, although strictly within the rights devolving upon it by charter, has succeeded in establishing a monopoly of trade; the manner in which this commercial monopoly presses on the native traders, as exemplified by the rising in Brass, which called for the mission of inquiry entrusted to Sir John Kirk in 1895, are some of the arguments which have influenced his Lordship."

It will be observed that care is taken to say the company did not break the letter

of the charter. Of course it was necessary to say that, otherwise the charter would have been revoked long ago. There is not, however, the slightest doubt as to the company having set up a monopoly. Now, what are the assets which we are purchasing, and for which this large sum is being given? There are 396 treaties with native chiefs and potentates, and I beg to draw attention to the fact that there is no record of a single penny having been paid. Here is Form No. 1 :

"We fully recognise the benefit accorded to our country and people by our intercourse with the National African Company, Limited, and in recognition of this we now cede the whole of our territory to the National African Company, Limited, and their administrators for ever. In consideration of this the National African Company, Limited, will not interfere with any of the native laws, and also not encroach on any private property unless the value is agreed upon by the owner and by the said company."

The only consideration set out, therefore, is the "benefit gained by intercourse with the company." Then the form goes on to say :

"The National African Company, Limited, will reserve to themselves the right of excluding foreign settlers."

Now we come to Form 2 :

"The said company reserve to themselves the right of excluding foreign settlers, other than those now settled in the country."

In the same treaty the company undertake to respect the native customs and laws, including, I suppose, slavery. Then I come to Form 4 :

"We bind ourselves not to have any intercourse with any strangers or foreigners except through the said National African Company, Limited, and we give the said National African Company, Limited, full power to exclude all other strangers and foreigners from their territory at their discretion."

All the treaties are in direct contravention of the Berlin Act and of the terms of the charter. I turn to the records of the company, and we find that the revenue of the administrative department in the year 1887, the first year of the charter, was made up as follows:—Imports: Duties on imports, Royal Niger Company, £33,000; other traders, £998. Exports: Royal Niger Company, £15,446, other traders, £1,335. Licences: Royal Niger

Company, £620, other traders, £660. The last account of the administrative branch is for 1897, and these are the items:—Imports: Royal Niger Company, £47,641, others, £232. Exports: Royal Niger Company, £45,330, others, nothing. All the trade of other companies had been obliterated and wiped out of the country, not one shilling's worth of goods was allowed to be exported out of the Niger Company's territory except by the Niger Company itself. That was the result of ten years' working. "Licences: Royal Niger Company, £445, other traders, none." In the year 1887 there were more licences issued to other traders than to the Niger Company. Therefore, they set deliberately to work in the teeth of the letter and the spirit of the charter and of the Berlin Act. Because they have brought this country to the verge of war in the pursuit of this policy, they are now to be rewarded on this lavish and enormous scale. I think I am entitled to demand some explanation of these facts, and to know why this great monopoly was not checked or the charter revoked before now. There is another clause in these treaties to which I desire to call attention. We do not know how these treaties were obtained; we have no information on the point whatever; all we know is that nothing was given for them, and yet every single one of them contains in its first clause a provision surrendering to the company all the rights of the natives and the whole of their territory, giving it unreservedly to the company. We have not even a rough estimate of the cost. Why should we pay for these treaties, which are really absolutely scandalous and utterly impossible to enforce? Why should we be called upon to pay an enormous sum for these treaties, which the moral sense of the country would absolutely revolt against using, and which were in all probability obtained by the basest possible means? Beside that, there is a clause in almost every one of these treaties—which has however been modified in the later forms—giving an unreserved pledge, without any qualification whatever on the part of the company, to respect and maintain all the native rights and customs. One of the native customs is cannibalism, and, of course, slavery exists in this enormous district. To say that slavery is abolished is only to throw dust in the eyes of the British people, and to

pay a certain amount of respect to a kind of sentiment that wherever the British flag flies people must be told that slavery does not exist. Slavery is not abolished, and cannot be for many years to come, in the region of the Niger. Are you going to enforce against these wretched men that portion of the treaties which is to your advantage, and destroy or forego every portion which is to the advantage of the native? Such a course of action could not be defended. To tell me that there is any moral right attached to a single one of these treaties is, in my judgment, to state an absurdity. But if they be moral, where do we find justification for turning back on the consideration which was offered with these treaties to the men who signed them? The only consideration offered was the pledge on the part of the company, which stands as long as the treaties stand, that all the customs and rights of the people of these countries would be carefully observed. I submit that that is an absolutely irrefutable truth, and therefore these treaties are as so much waste paper. We had a most extraordinary argument advanced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer the other day, when in eloquent and moving tones he said, "Are we to treat this company ungenerously who risked its large capital and might have lost it all?" I really thought that some Members must have been moved to considerable amusement by that appeal. Did nobody ever risk capital in a company? Some people have lost money in gold-mining companies, and there are various things in which money is lost. Men put their money into companies for the purpose of risking it in the hope of a great gain. Why should men who risked their money in this company for the sole purpose of reaping a large profit, now after ten years, with an unbroken record of prosperity, never having been without a good dividend, and having had bonuses and all kinds of advantages—why should they appeal to us because ten years ago their capital might have been lost? A more grotesque argument on which to base a claim for public generosity was never made in the House of Commons. It must not be forgotten that the money was not lost. We have to judge not by what might have happened, but by what has happened. Very few better investments have been made of recent years than was made by the people who put their money

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into this company. A good dividend has been paid all the time, the capital has increased, the company has an enormous monopoly, which in my opinion they mean to retain, and will be able to retain for many years to come against all comers. When a company like this has been established, which has elaborate machinery, great knowledge, a trained staff, abundant capital, an ample means of breaking up any people who attempt to encroach upon the ground they occupy, it must be many years before that monopoly can be broken. The company risked their money for profit; they have made an ample profit, and they have no right to come to the House and say, "We have spread the British Empire in all these regions, and we now demand an enormous amount of money without a critical examination of our past." I say that these accounts ought to be examined very critically, and that the sum I propose to substitute is really far too generous an amount. Then we are told by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and by the Colonial Secretary that this company ought to be treated generously, and that its great work ought to be recognised, because it is handing over to this country a ready-made and cheaply-made great Empire. I would rather resume the discussion on that subject ten years hence, when we have found out what this Empire will cost us. We were told what enormous advantages would accrue to this country in connection with the East Africa Company when we bought it out on a very much more moderate scale. That company had not only risked its capital, but lost it, and then it came to this country with a great Empire which it had taken hold of—certainly with considerable confusion going on, but why is there no confusion in the Niger? Because you sent out two years ago the Imperial Police, who have policed the whole frontier of the Niger for the company, not charging one penny for it. The East Africa Company came and asked for consideration. They did not get anything like the consideration we are giving in the present case. That empire may ultimately turn out a very fine country, but I doubt very much whether it will ever pay this country one penny for all the outlay it has cost. I should say it has cost us fully £5,000,000 since we took over the East Africa Company, and all we have in return is the glory of

the British flag flying over another country as big as France. I for my part refuse to recognise that in handing over to this country, overburdened as it is with the growing and immense responsibilities of an empire to which it is quite unable to devote that amount of attention which it is morally bound to give to the multitudes of people who are committed to its sway—I say I refuse to recognise as a great gift to this country an addition of 35 millions of unknown people. It is out of the power of this country, and still more out of the power of this House, to discharge to these helpless, silent, inarticulate races those moral duties which are entailed on the government of a great empire. In the years that are to come crimes may be committed in our name and slaughters may be perpetrated which it may be impossible for the already overburdened Ministers of the Empire to investigate, and nobody can forecast the extent of the evil that may result from this great accession to the territory of the British Empire. I beg to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 23, to leave out the words 'eight hundred and sixty-five,' and insert the words 'four hundred' (*Mr. Dillon*) instead thereof."

Question proposed, "That the words 'eight hundred and sixty-five' stand part of the clause."

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): I think my hon. friend has conclusively proved that the amount to be paid to this company is excessive. On the discussion on the Second Reading of this Bill the hon. Member for Poplar pointed out that since the announcement of the intention of the Government to purchase the company its shares had doubled in value. I have always understood that when a company was taken over consideration was given to the price at which its shares stood before the proposal was made to buy it up. What are the facts in this case? On the 2nd July, 1897, the fully paid shares of this company stood at £10 11s. On the 1st July, 1898, they had risen to £15 10s., and their present price is from

£19 to £21. So that since the negotiations commenced two years ago the shares have doubled in value. It is evident we are making a bad bargain, while the company are making a good one. The right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer found fault with my hon. friend the other day when he pointed out that a good many of the treaties negotiated with the company contained a clause providing that the native chief signing should have no connection with any stranger or anyone not of the company, and he suggested that those treaties were entered into, not by the present, but by the old company. With all due respect to the right hon. Gentleman I think he is mistaken, for I find twenty-five of these treaties have been signed since 1886, and consequently came under the company's charter. In them the signatory chiefs bind themselves "not to have intercourse with any strangers or persons except through the Royal Niger Company." Again, in Form X, No. 35, we have other treaties containing a similar clause. Every one of these was signed in and after 1890, some of them so recently as 1892, and it is obvious that the company during the period of its existence as a chartered company has signed treaties pledging itself to do certain things for the native chiefs and exacting from them in return an undertaking not to allow any strangers or foreigners to come into their territory. Never was a more monstrous engagement entered into under any charter than this. This is bad enough, but the reigning chief is not to admit any stranger, Englishman included, who is not connected with the company. That is not all. There are fifty of these treaties for which absolutely nothing has been paid. The company have agreed to pay a certain sum per annum, and now the Government are taking upon their own shoulders these very obligations. The right hon. Gentleman buys certain land of the company, which alleges that it has acquired a wide strip of territory along the banks of the Niger for a distance of 500 miles. How did they acquire it? The right hon. Gentleman told us that the company had practically acquired a monopoly; that this arrangement with the Government deprived them of it, and that therefore it was only right they should be paid for it. But if they have acquired a monopoly they have grossly violated their charter, which

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specifically declares that they shall not have a monopoly as against any other persons, and I say that they have violated the very corner-stone of their charter. Does it not seem monstrous that, the company having thus improperly acquired a monopoly, the Government should come forward and pay them for it? Further, the Government have agreed to pay them 50 per cent. of any mining royalties that may be received in the future. I should like to know who will have to look after these mines, and to maintain order there. I venture to assert that it is the Government who will have to do it. The right hon. Gentleman has told us that we ought to take a generous view in all these matters. But, with all respect for him in his capacity as guardian of the public purse, I say I have to look to him to see that I am not robbed, and I will therefore trouble him not to take a generous view in any of these matters. Let him, by all means, take a just view. The question is, what is this worth after all? I think the Government would be acting generously in not turning the company out neck and crop without compensation, seeing that they have grossly violated their charter by creating a monopoly. The Chancellor of the Exchequer says that they have done a very great work. I know that hon. Members do not agree with me, but for my part I must say I am exceedingly sorry that they have annexed the Empire of Sokoto. At any rate they have done pretty well for themselves pecuniarily. In the first instance the shareholders subscribed £2 per share, and they were given back 30 per cent. of the amount of their subscriptions in bonds. That is to say, they paid £1 8s. down for each share, which nominally stood at £2, and now they are going to receive, if we pass this Bill, £4 per share for which they only paid originally £1 8s. I do not think we ought to treat them with such generosity, which is going beyond a fair bargain. I take it that the sum proposed by my hon. friend the Member for East Mayo, is not only a fair but a generous sum to carry out the views of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in a practical way. The sum proposed cannot be justified by the assets of the company, for the shares were at half the present value two years ago. The company lost £22,000 per annum by their administration of the country, and although they have paid 6

per cent. out of their trading profits they have incurred further debts on account of the administration. I do not think that we ought to give them this large sum of money, especially after we have relieved them of the obligation of a loss of £22,000 per annum, for which we get nothing as a *quid pro quo*. The company have got no monopoly by their charter, and they are literally selling us nothing except an obligation to incur all these expenses of administration. As a matter of fact we are sure to lose more than the £22,000, because we know that governments do spend in these matters a good deal more than private individuals. There was an observation made by the Colonial Secretary upon the Second Reading of this Bill in regard to the spirit traffic, in which he said that we might reconcile ourselves to a very considerable reduction in the trade in spirits. This trade with us is only carried on by our agreeing to pay for the goods in spirits, whereas we have always protested against trading in spirits in South Africa. We have often said we would forbid entirely the trade in spirits there if we could induce other foreign nations on the frontier to do the same. We have done this because we fear that spirits would be introduced at a lower price by smuggling, but here we are told by the Colonial Secretary that the company has been obliged to allow the importation of spirits and to give spirits in payment for the produce of the country, for without that the negroes would not trade. I am perfectly certain that, when that is thoroughly understood, there will be such an outcry against this practice of using spirits as a species of currency that the people of this country will not allow it to go on in our dominions. Therefore our revenue is sure to decrease while our expenses will increase. I shall certainly support by my vote the Amendment of my hon. friend behind me, who, I think, in proposing that the sum should be £400,000, has acted in an almost excessively generous fashion.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS-BEACH, Bristol, W.): I need not remind the House that the principle of this Bill has already been confirmed by the House, and that principle, of course, is the revocation of the charter and the

taking over of the administrative duties of the company by the Crown. Therefore, I think I may confine myself to the point which has been directly raised by the hon. Member for East Mayo by this Amendment—namely, the amount to be paid to the company for the transfer of their rights under the charter. I must at once confess that I look at this matter from a totally different point of view from the hon. Member for East Mayo and the hon. Member for Northampton, and I believe the vast majority in the House and in the country would agree with me. For what is the point of view of the hon. Members for East Mayo and Northampton? Why, Sir, that we are doing no good to the country, but are incurring a serious burden and responsibility by assuming any rights or any influence over this vast region of the Niger and its basin. The hon. Members, judging from their speeches, would prefer that these great territories should be under the influence of France or Germany, or any other Power, rather than that of Great Britain. That is a point of view which I am totally unable to appreciate. I am sure it is not the opinion of the country at large, neither do I think that the country at large will share the estimate formed by these two hon. Members of the proceedings of this Chartered Company. The hon. Member for East Mayo went so far as to say—and I think the hon. Member for Northampton agreed with him—that all chartered companies behaved badly.

MR. LABOUCHERE: Yes.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: That is a statement utterly devoid of foundation. The hon. Member for East Mayo actually says that men like the late Lord Aberdare, Sir George Goldie, and others risked their money for the purposes of profit, and for no other purpose. I think that is a scandalous statement to make about such gentlemen. I do not mean to say that the founders of the company did not look to the profits to be secured by their trading operations—but I do say that their main intention and purpose was to extend the British Empire, British trade, and British commerce in territories which appeared to them to be of great value to the civilised world. Therefore I maintain, as I maintained before, that the company have undertaken work in Nigeria which, in the first place, has been already, and will be

in future, of very great benefit to this country ; and, secondly, that they have performed that work in an admirable manner, with one exception—namely, that they have unquestionably so utilised the powers granted to them by the charter as to obtain for themselves a practical monopoly of the trade of the region. But surely hon. Members will see that if the charter enabled the company to obtain that monopoly—and the Foreign Office was advised by the Law Officers that it did—you cannot punish them by the revocation of the charter for merely exercising the powers contained in the charter. I know hon. Members point to the clause which says :

“Nothing in this our charter shall be deemed to authorise the company to set up or grant any monopoly of trade,” etc.

But the matter has been frequently the subject of very careful and anxious consideration by the Foreign Office, and it has been advised that the proceedings by which the company obtained this monopoly were legal under the charter. The price of the shares of the company before these proceedings commenced was no real test of their actual value, because, as a matter of fact, there was no dealing in these shares on the Stock Exchange ; and, as they were not utilised for speculation, financially speaking, there is no reason to complain of the proceedings of the company with respect to them. The hon. Member for Mayo charged my right hon. friend the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs with having misrepresented the condition of the capital of the company.

MR. DILLON : No. I made no such charge against the right hon. Gentleman. What I said was that he only gave the company's statement with regard to their capital ; and I made a charge against that statement.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH : I am glad I misunderstood the hon. Gentleman on that point. But, at any rate, the hon. Gentleman believes that the shares of the company were “watered.” I do not think that is a fair charge to make against the company. Undoubtedly, as appears from the accounts, shares were paid to companies and individual traders who were absorbed in the company in order to advance the company's policy of securing

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the Niger for British trade. The hon. Member for Northampton rather blamed the promoters of the Royal Niger Company, because under this process of amalgamation they made over shares to a French company.

MR. LABOUCHERE : I did not make it a charge against the company. I pointed out that those shareholders who became shareholders by receiving the shares of the French company could not be regarded as patriots in the sense that they were working for the benefit of England.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH : I never said they were. But the company by the amalgamation certainly did an act that will be in future of very material advantage to British trade and commerce by getting rid of separate French interests in that way on the Niger. As I said the other day, I have no responsibility for the balance-sheet or the accounts of the company, but I think it is clear from those accounts that the capital of the company was not “watered,” that the shares issued were issued in return for valuable assets of other companies, and that some of these assets represented actual cash. The hon. Member for East Mayo referred to shares issued in payment of goodwill. It would seem, from the accounts, that this goodwill must represent treaties and other rights acquired by the predecessors of the Royal Niger Company before the grant of the charter.

MR. DILLON : The question I asked was whether cash was fully paid up on all the shares to the amount of the actual capital stated ; and the answer I got was “Yes.” But you cannot call goodwill cash.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH : No ; the hon. Member's question was whether the capital of the company was watered.

MR. DILLON : And did it represent cash paid up ? The answer was, “Cash paid up.”

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH : I am describing what actually happened. What was entered in the company's earlier balance-sheets under the head of “goodwill” seems to represent treaties and other

worth which the charter itself provided should be paid for by the issue of the debt secured on the revenues of the territory. Then the hon. Member complained of the amount we propose to pay the company for the plant which we take over. He said it was quite clear we were paying too much for what we were taking over, as the company retained all its trading plant. I have looked carefully into that matter, and I have satisfied myself that the company's plant as entered in their latest balance-sheet and their former balance-sheet was largely undervalued. (Opposition laughter.) The hon. Member for East Mayo does not believe that is possible.

MR. DILLON : It is very unusual.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH : I quite admit that it is unusual, but I am satisfied that it is the case. It appears from the reports to the shareholders that the allowances for depreciation, especially on the steamers, were so large a percentage that practically the steamers have been brought down to no value at all, although they are still running. In taking over the plant we have to consider what would be the value of that plant if we had to purchase it afresh. I am quite sure if instead of taking over the plant from the company, which they were not at all anxious we should take over, we had gone to the expense of clearing land, erecting buildings, and purchasing steamers, it would have cost very much more than the £115,000 put down for this part of the bargain with the company. The hon. Member also found fault with the accounts of the company. He complained that there were two accounts—one an administrative account and the other a trading account. The separate administrative account was certainly directly contemplated by the charter, which in so many words permitted the company to bear administrative expenses out of customs and other duties it was entitled to levy. It therefore became necessary to keep the two accounts. They show that the cost of this administrative work was very much beyond the ordinary expenses of administration necessary for trading purposes. The company had to resist the attempts of natives of France and Germany to establish French and German influence in those regions ; and the extra expenditure in this respect and in

developing the territories of the company is obviously a matter for which they have had hitherto no return, and which they might have left absolutely alone, and might have divided among themselves the trading profits which, as it was, they had to devote to this extra expense of administration. This may fairly be credited to the company by way of an unexhausted improvement. But the hon. Member's main objection, after all, is that this purchase will form a dangerous precedent with regard to the South Africa Company. These cases of chartered companies must be taken separately. Parliament thought it was necessary to deal with the East Africa Company some years ago. That company had absolutely failed to carry out the purpose for which it was instituted. Its territory became practically in a state of anarchy, and the Government and Parliament of the day had no option but to assume the responsibility, which at that time was very great, and has since become greater, and Parliament voted for that company, which had completely failed, a sum of a quarter of a million. I do not know what may be the future of the South Africa Company ; but if the time should ever come, as it may some day, when the administrative rights and duties of that company have to be taken over by the Government of this country, the history and the work of that company will have to be judged on their own merits ; and the question cannot be decided in any way by anything we are proposing to do for the Niger Company now. The circumstances are totally different in the two cases ; and I hope the House will not be led away by what the hon. Member said in suggesting that we are making a precedent which would be applicable to the South Africa Company by what we are doing in regard to the Niger Company. With respect to the Amendment, I do not know on what grounds the hon. Member thinks £400,000 would be a more fair payment than what is proposed in the Bill, or how much of that £400,000 he would allocate for the plant we propose to purchase. However that may be, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, it would not be fair to revoke the charter of the company on any other terms than those we are now proposing, and, if the principle be admitted that the charter of the com-

pany should be revoked, and its administrative duties and rights taken over by the State, I trust the Committee will sanction this proposal.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) : The principle of the Bill was accepted without Amendment on the Second Reading. We are now discussing what is the whole point of the Bill—namely, the price to be paid for the purchase of this company. I do not propose to go into the question of what this company has done. I must confess that it may have made mistakes ; but, on the whole, as far as chartered companies go, it has done its work well, and saved us a large territory in Africa. I do think, however, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer is hardly entitled to say, as he did at the Second Reading, that we are not justified, that it is not our duty to examine very carefully the details of the proposal. If it be admitted that the larger the annual loss to the company is, the larger should be the sum the Government have got to pay, it will form a very dangerous precedent if we have ever to come to deal with and buy up the South Africa Company. There are one or two points of detail which the Chancellor of the Exchequer has not quite clearly explained, or stated on what his estimate is formed. I understood him to say that half a million was raised in £2 shares. The point is, was that sum of half a million paid in actual cash out of the pockets of the shareholders for the purposes of the company ? In regard to the £115,000 to be paid for steamers and other plant, I was rather surprised to hear the statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the Chartered Company have so managed or manipulated their accounts that they are to get a considerably less sum for these assets than their real value. The right hon. Gentleman is not going to give them the sum the company themselves put down as the value of these assets, but out of the kindness of his heart, he is going to give them something in addition.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH : We are paying considerably less than the value at which these items stand in the books of the company, but the book value is higher than that of the balance-sheet.

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MR. SYDNEY BUXTON : That is still more mysterious. There must be some reason for putting these assets in the balance-sheet at a lower figure than they ought to have been put at, and I should like to know what that reason is. I understand that the Treasury will go very carefully into the matter. I want to know how the Chancellor of the Exchequer arrives at the figures of £150,000 for land and mineral rights, and £300,000 to make up a deficit on administrative work. The only reason the right hon. Gentlemen has given, up to the present, is that these land and mineral rights had been bought out of trade profits. But the whole surplus which the company received out of their trading accounts during the past twelve years, in addition to what was paid in the way of dividends, amounted to only £70,000. And we are now proposing to give the company £150,000 for rights upon which, at the outside, they only expended £70,000. The principal item in dispute is the £300,000 to make up the deficits, during the last twelve years, on administrative work. That sum is excessive, and I do not think that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has dealt with it on the business basis on which it ought to be treated. We are going to relieve the company for the future of an annual loss of something like £24,000, and at the same time we are going to pay the company £300,000 because we are going to relieve them of the annual loss.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH : I explained that fully the other day. The reason for it, of course, is this : that through their administrative powers the company have obtained practically a monopoly in trade.

DR. CLARK (Caithness) : Contrary to their charter.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH : No, not contrary to their charter, but under the powers of their charter. With the loss of these administrative powers they will not have any exceptional monopoly ; on the contrary, trade will be free on the Niger, and therefore their profits will decrease.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON : The Chancellor of the Exchequer puts it on the ground that the company are losing this monopoly, and have to be compen-

sated for it with £300,000. I cannot understand how the company were legally allowed a monopoly for twelve years, for there is nothing more clear in the charter than that they are not to have a monopoly of trade. That they have got a monopoly nobody denies. If they have had this monopoly for twelve years and have been able to pay dividends on their shares, and accumulate a considerable reserve fund, I do not think we should pay them a large additional sum for taking away a monopoly to which they were not entitled, and which they have enjoyed for twelve years. Then as to the administrative loss, we are really relieving the company of a considerable charge which would increase year after year. The amount we propose to give the company as compensation is, I think, somewhat excessive, but at the same time I do not see my way to support the Amendment of my hon. friend the Member for East Mayo. I do not understand on what ground my hon. friend proposes to reduce the compensation to £400,000. I would have thought that this was a case in which a Committee of the House of Commons should have looked into the figures before the Bill was introduced into the House. Although in my view the sum proposed is excessive, I am not prepared to cut it down by half. We are entitled as a Committee to further information in regard to details. I am not in a position to suggest a sum that will be absolutely fair and satisfactory, and although I supported the Bill on the Second Reading, I shall now walk out of the House, and abstain from voting.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): The hon. Gentleman has taken the true Front Bench attitude. He cannot make up his mind. I have made up my mind to support Her Majesty's Government in their policy of "Off with his head; so much for Buckingham." This is not a matter over which we should haggle. It is a matter of high State policy. Whether we are paying £200,000 too much or £200,000 too little is not the question. I am bound to say that certain admissions of the Chancellor of the Exchequer as to the details of this scheme have somewhat disquieted me. There is, first of all, the amazing statement as to the absolutely valueless nature of Clause 14 of the Charter.

This clause was drawn up by the great legal pundits of the Foreign Office. It would be thought that they would be able to carry out what they proposed, yet the Chancellor of the Exchequer now says that there is nothing in the charter to prevent a monopoly of trading. But the charter distinctly stated that there was to be no monopoly, and that trade should be free, although it was not free, and that there should be no deferential treatment, although there was deferential treatment, not only as regards British subjects but the subjects of other Powers. In every particular this clause was inoperative, and the learned persons at the Foreign Office who drew it up seemed to be incapable of stating what their intention was. This is yet another example of the intelligence of the Foreign Office, in addition to the others I have come across in the course of my historical researches. The Chancellor of the Exchequer told us that he is paying a larger sum for the assets than appears on the balance-sheet, but not more than the sum which appears in the books, and he gives the strange reason for doing that that the company have written off too much for depreciation. According to the last balance-sheet £15,728 was written off, making 12 per cent. on the year. That, however, did not apply to office furniture, but to property in Africa, including buildings, plant, stations and steamers. That is an eight years' life for plant in a climate such as that of the Niger, which, I think, is very fair; and some of the steamers would be worth very little at the end of the seventh year. If the Committee will examine the previous Reports they will find in the balance-sheet for the year ended December 31st, 1894, before there was any question of purchase, that the amount of depreciation was £20,000 on £114,000, or 18 per cent. As a matter of fact the present depreciation which the Chancellor of the Exchequer thinks too much is a great deal less than the depreciation five years ago, before there was any notion of the company being bought by the Government. I think that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has been a little too generous in assuming that the company were mistaken in the amount of the depreciation they had written off. As to the argument that a different account appears in the books, which we have not before us, I must say that the proper place for the value of the assets to

appear is on the balance-sheet. There is only one other question to which I will refer. It has been estimated that the Niger Company is making a loss of £24,000 a year on the expenses of government. We are buying the right to bear this loss, and in addition we are asked to give the Colonial Office £78,000 for the eight months between this and 31st March. Therefore, for one year we may assume that this will cost us £100,000 as against the £24,000 it cost the Niger Company. I think that is a very serious matter, and I think the Supplementary Estimate throws a new light on the proposal of this Bill. But as I said before, we cannot haggle over the terms of the purchase of this Empire. We are assured that these territories are very valuable, and have a great future before them. In that case we must be generous, and whether it is a swamp on the Niger or a manœuvring ground on Salisbury Plain, we have to pay double the value of what we buy. That is the natural order of things, and even the Chancellor of the Exchequer is prepared to make the sacrifices required of him.

DR. CLARK: I am not convinced that this is a fair sum to be paid for this company. As far as the question of policy is concerned, that was confirmed by the Second Reading, but I am rather afraid we have not given sufficient attention to the details. The questions we have to consider are whether this is a fair price to pay, and whether we ought not to have taken away the charter without giving any compensation at all. There was sufficient ground for that, because the charter was not properly carried out. We agreed with other Powers that no monopoly should be given in Africa. A year or two afterwards we issued this charter, in the fourteenth clause of which power was taken to prevent monopoly. All that the Chancellor of the Exchequer will say now is that technically the company have been able to evade the spirit of that clause, although they were morally bound by it. As a matter of fact it has been evaded, and a monopoly has been created, the company obtaining no less than twenty-five treaties from native chiefs, giving them the sole right of trading. The company abused their rights under the charter, and now

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we are buying it back. Are we buying it back at a fair price? A couple of years ago the price of the shares on the Stock Exchange was practically at par. When the negotiations were commenced the shares rose to 50 per cent. premium, and now in consequence of the bargain of the Chancellor of the Exchequer they stand at about 100 per cent. premium. I say it is a preposterous price to pay. The company gave nothing for the charter, and now they are getting hundreds of thousands of pounds for handing it back. Three years after they were established we permitted the company to create a book debt of £250,000. Not a single farthing was paid for this £250,000. They divided it by giving a 30 per cent. bonus to their shareholders, keeping the rest for themselves. Now we are giving the company £300,000 for that debt, because they say they spent out of trading profits a certain amount of money in special administrative work under the charter. We are also giving them £100,000 for dislocating their business. But how are we dislocating their business, when they are still to continue trading under the old conditions? Every servant of the company signs an agreement that when his term expires he must not remain in the country, and even if an adventurer goes out he finds he cannot trade because the company has a monopoly of all the available sites. We are going to buy from the company what has been a source of loss, but the company is to remain with all its old prestige to carry on a profitable trade. We are going to buy from the company the administration of the territory, which has been to the company a source of loss, and, free from this loss, the company will, with all their old prestige, carry on a profitable trade. I for one am not satisfied with the bargain made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer; the company has, however, been very successful in the bargain, and Sir George Goldie deserves from the shareholders substantial recognition of his services. I shall vote for the Amendment, though I would rather it had been for reduction by one hundred per cent.

*MR. W. F. LAWRENCE (Liverpool, Abercromby): I would like to remind the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer that my constituents have been

very great sufferers from the policy of the company. However, as I said before, they are prepared to forget and forgive, and have no desire to criticise the items of the Bill under which the Niger Company is to be purchased by Her Majesty's Government. For the last ten years, however, the trading community of Liverpool has been criticising the action of the company, and I desire to point out how proper their criticisms have been. At the annual meeting of the company in 1885, Lord Aberdare, the then chairman, adumbrated the idea that it would be to the interest of the company to create a monopoly. When the charter was granted words were introduced into it seeking to prevent a monopoly; and what I and others complain of is that the charter was practically stultified in this respect, and that without any interference by the Foreign Office. Private traders have been absolutely excluded from the river, and yet the Government have taken no steps in the matter. However, when the country is purchasing this great addition to the Empire, it is not for us to look too closely into the £ s. d. of the transaction. Having had myself some interest in the transfer of the British East Africa Company to the State, I must express surprise at the treatment the Niger Company is receiving as compared with that which the East Africa Company met with from the Treasury. We are told that the Niger Company has done a great deal in developing the territories under its control. If I am rightly informed, security and protection has not been provided at a greater distance than one mile from the river, and all that the company has done is to sit in receipt of customs at favourable spots on the banks. If the British East Africa Company had been on a great river running 800 or 900 miles into the country it would have done infinitely better, and would, apparently, have received much handsomer treatment at the hands of the Treasury. That company, at any rate, set up a government 800 miles from the sea without any advantage of a great natural artery; and yet, after all their exertions, and having had no returns for their money, they were bought out by the Treasury and Foreign Office at a price which only represented 10s. 6d. in the pound. But the Niger Company, after setting up a monopoly against which its charter is supposed to guard, is, after

about ten years' operations, to be bought up on very handsome terms. I must congratulate Sir George Goldie and his company on having not only earned a capital dividend during these years but also obtaining a handsome profit in this sale. What I am mostly concerned about now is to urge the authorities to see that there is an adequate amount of good trading area on the sides of the Niger, so that those who now, by the permission of the company and of the Government, come in to trade shall not be placed under any undue disadvantage with regard to the existing great company, which, although shorn of its powers in some respects, yet will have the enormous prestige of having been the first in the field. It is most important that these river banks should practically be open to all the world, and that all the best places should not be left in the possession of the company. I think that the statistics that have been furnished as to the exports and imports are too meagrely given. The values only were furnished. It would be very interesting, historically, to see in future a return given, not only of the values but of the nature of the goods, so that the early development of trade may be clearly shown. Though something might be said to show that an unduly large payment is being made, I am glad that the Foreign Office has come to see that the position of affairs must be altered and a monopoly terminated.

MR. THOMAS BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield): The opinion expressed by the hon. Member for the Abercromby Division of Liverpool does not correspond with that given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer half an hour ago. The Chancellor of the Exchequer told us that the company had performed in an admirable manner all the requirements of the Act of Parliament. That, apparently, is not the opinion of Liverpool, or rather of the hon. Gentleman who has spoken on its behalf. The Bill we are discussing to-day is based upon a Treasury Minute dated the 30th June, 1899. This says:

"The company shall be relieved of all its administrative powers and duties, and shall assign to Her Majesty's Government the benefit of all its treaties and all its land and mining rights of whatever sort and however acquired, but shall retain—except as hereinafter specified—its plant and trading assets, and its stations and waterside depôts, with customary rights of access, buildings, wharves, workshops, and the sites thereof."

Then it goes on to say how much shall be

given for the different items. But we are asked to vote £865,000. Where is the increase of £50,000 between the Bill and the Treasury Minute going to be made, and what is going to be done with it? According to the Treasury Minute we do not buy all the mining rights in the country. The Minute says later:

"Her Majesty's Government will pay to the company, or its assigns, one-half of the receipts from any royalty so imposed for a period of ninety-nine years from the revocation of the charter, and no specific taxation shall be imposed on the mining interest."

We have, therefore, for ninety-nine years to pay half the receipts from royalties to the company. That is an arrangement that ought never to have been made, and I cannot understand why it should have

been made. We want it thoroughly explained. We have had absolutely no valuation from a responsible person of character and position as to these mineral rights in the country for which we are going to pay £115,000 or £120,000, and I cannot help thinking that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would have been well advised if he had taken the opinion of a good business man on the subject, who had some knowledge of the country. I shall certainly support the Amendment which has been so ably proposed and seconded.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 143; Noes, 57. (Division List, No. 305.)

AYES.

Aird, John
Arrol, Sir William
Asher, Alexander
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds
Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. Blair (Clackm.
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barry, Rt. Hon. A. H. Smith (Hunts
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bethell, Commander
Bigwood, James
Bond, Edward
Bowles, T. G. (King's Lynn)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, A. Montagu
Bullard, Sir Harry
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. A. (Glasg'w
Carson, Rt. Hon. Edward
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir J. Charles Ready
Colston, C. Edward H. Athole
Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crombie, John William
Curzon, Viscount
Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
Denny, Colonel
Dickson-Poynder, Sir J. P.
Donkin, Richard Sim
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, William Theodore
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.

Fardell, Sir T. George
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finch, George H.
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir R. Penrose-
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
FitzWygram, General Sir F.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Garfit, William
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. Geo.'s)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hamond, Sir Chas. (Newcastle)
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Rbt. Wm.
Hedderwick, Thos. Charles H.
Helder, Augustus
Hill, Sir Edward Stock (Bristol)
Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
Holland, Hn. Lionel R. (Bow)
Howard, Joseph
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hon. Sir U
Kemp, George
Kenyon, James
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn
Lawrence, W. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lecky, Rt. Hon. W. Edward H.
Llewellyn, E. H. (Somerset)
Llewellyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swans.)
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (L'pool)
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lowe, Francis William
Lloyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdonald, John Cumming

M'Killop, James
Malcolm, Ian
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milton, Viscount
Monk, Charles James
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Sir G. A. (Lancs. SW
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Priestley, Sir W. Overend (Edin)
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel W.
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Stanley, Sir Henry M. (Lambeth
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Valentia, Viscount.
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-u.-Lyne)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wrightson, Thomas
Wyhe, Alexander
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Wyvil, Marmaduke D'Arcy

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

Mr. Thomas Bayley.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)	Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley	Molloy, Bernard Charles
Allison, Robert Andrew	Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale	Nussey, Thomas Willans
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)	Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)	Pirie, Duncan V.
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.	Holden, Sir Angus	Reckitt, Harold James
Billson, Alfred	Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)	Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Broadhurst, Henry	Horniman, Frederick John	Shaw, Charles E. (Stafford)
Burt, Thomas	Joicey, Sir James	Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Caldwell, James	Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)	Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Cameron, Robert (Durham)	Kinloch, Sir John G. Smyth	Strachey, Edward
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)	Labouchere, Henry	Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Colville, John	Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)	Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Condon, Thomas Joseph	Lewis, John Herbert	Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)	Lloyd-George, David	Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Davitt, Michael	Macaleese, Daniel	Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
Dewar, Arthur	McCrae, George	Wilson, John (Govan)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles	McKenna, Reginald	Woods, Samuel
Donelan, Captain A.	M'Leod, John	Yoxall, James Henry
Doogan, P. C.	Maddison, Fred.	TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Duckworth, James	Maden, John Henry	Mr. Dillon and Mr. Thomas
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)	Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe	Bayley.

Question proposed, "That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill."

the African Company. Those treaties, however, were paid for.

MR. DILLON: It is quite evident that the company are getting a monstrous price for their assets. And here I wish to draw attention to several extraordinary statements which have been made by the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs. I do not for a single moment attribute to the right hon. Gentleman any intention to deceive me or the House. When I first put the question to him with regard to the capital of the company he asked me to postpone it, and two or three days later he gave me a reply, which he stated had been furnished to him by the company. It was to the effect that the capital of the company as set forth in the statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer represented cash paid up, and did not include any watered stock. Now we have the admission that that is not the fact, and that a very large proportion of the stock does not represent cash paid capital. For instance, £195,000 of fully paid up stock was issued for the purchase of the assets of the company, while £115,000 of fully paid up stock is admitted to have been issued for the purchase of the goodwill. When I asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what was the goodwill I got an extraordinary answer. I had supposed, from my examination of the balance-sheets, that it was the goodwill in the trade of the company. But the Chancellor of the Exchequer informed me that it was nothing of the sort, but that it was represented by treaties which had been negotiated by

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: I do not think I put it so strongly as that. I said that that was what I understood. I really am not responsible for drawing up the the balance-sheets of the Niger Company.

MR. DILLON: I think, at any rate, we ought to have some information as to what we are paying for. Here is a considerable sum which it is now admitted does not represent stock on which cash was paid. It was issued as scrip fully paid for the purchase of the goodwill, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer thinks that that goodwill consists of treaties which had been negotiated by the company. If we accept that explanation, I say that those treaties had been already paid for out of the loan of £250,000 which we are now called upon to liquidate. It is obvious that this portion of the company's capital represents not one single penny of capital paid up, and that it is really a portion of the loan which was raised, by the permission of the Home Government, on the security of the revenue of the Niger district, and which is still retained by the company in its own hands. I understand that some hon. Members in the last Division found difficulty in supporting my Amendment, because they thought I had not sufficiently gone into details to show how I arrived at the sum of £400,000. I now propose to give the items which go to make up that sum.

First we have £300,000 to pay off the debt of £250,000, contracted when the company was started as a chartered company—

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order. I think the hon. Member is now going back on the decision which the Committee has already come to. That decision was that the sum to be paid should be £865,000. Of course, by rejecting this clause the Committee can refuse to pay any sum at all, but the fact remains that, if anything at all is to be paid, it shall be £865,000.

MR. DILLON: Some hon. Members, as I understand, thought I had selected too low a figure. Surely, it is open to us to show that the bargain as a whole is a bad bargain, and that is why I am endeavouring to deal briefly with the items which go to make up the total. There is a sum of £300,000 for undeveloped improvements. I will not enlarge upon that, as I shall be able to deal with it on an Amendment later on. All I will now say is that I think it should be knocked out altogether. We are to pay £150,000 for land and mining rights, and for war material, buildings, wharves, steamers, and stores another £115,000. We have had a most extraordinary statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer as to this latter item. I find on careful examination that we are, in all, paying over £200,000 for assets which are valued by the company at only £113,000. Is not that a monstrous thing? The Chancellor of the Exchequer says he is satisfied that the company have enormously undervalued their assets in their own balance-sheets. Surely we are entitled to a more satisfactory answer than that. The right hon. Gentleman admits that it is unusual, and I say it is so unusual that there must be a motive for it. If it be true, the only reason I can gather from it is that the company wrote off enormous sums for depreciation in order to hide their profits. They were afraid for the public to know the extent of those profits, because they knew that if the information became public, and if their true position were revealed, the proposition now before the House would be vigorously opposed. I think we are entitled to protest against that, and we

Mr. Dillon.

ought to have a better answer than that, on examination, the Chancellor of the Exchequer finds that a small portion of their assets are worth more than appears on the balance-sheet.

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: Not a small portion.

MR. DILLON: Well, the company are retaining all that they require for the purposes of their business and what they consider necessary for the further prosecution of their trading operations. They are simply handing over to the Government what they do not themselves want. It is perfectly plain that they are selling to the Government at nearly double their value a portion of the assets, and I therefore do hope that hon. Members, feeling that the sum named by the Government is too large, will vote against the clause as a whole.

DR. CLARK: I support the Amendment of my hon. friend because, although it is very drastic, I think we can justify the taking over of this territory without giving a single penny to the company. I hold that the Government should have adopted that course, because of the way in which the company have used the powers entrusted to them. The Chancellor of the Exchequer must know that under the Treaty of Berlin, which was signed a year or two before this charter was granted, it was provided that no trading monopoly should be created, and, indeed, in the charter is to be found a clause to the effect that nothing shall be done contrary to the provisions of that treaty. Yet what have the company done? Here we find on page 28 a form of treaty under which the kings and chiefs who signed it bound themselves "not to have any intercourse with any strangers or foreigners except through the Royal Niger Company." Now that treaty is certainly contrary to the terms of Clause 15 of the charter and to the provisions of the Berlin Treaty, and I therefore say the Government would be thoroughly justified in not paying the company a single penny. The fact is the Government are buying a bad asset on which the company are losing money, and

the company are retaining their good asset on which they have been able to make from 30 per cent. to 50 per cent. profit, and they will practically retain their trade monopoly. We must not forget that it was their misgovernment that brought about the rising in the Brass country. I hold it would be quite sufficient to give them back their capital, plus 50 per cent.; then you could destroy their monopoly, and allow the Liverpool and Glasgow merchants to share in the trade. That monopoly was only created through the stupidity of the Foreign Office, and right hon. Gentlemen on both sides of this House are equally to blame for not seeing that the provisions of the charter and of the Treaty of Berlin were properly enforced.

MR. LABOUCHERE: I do not think that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has very cogently replied to our complaint that he is paying too much for these assets, and that he is handing over infinitely more than their value as set forth in the balance-sheet. The right hon. Gentleman has told us that those assets are undervalued; if that be the case then surely the Public Prosecutor should come in and deal with the directors of the company. The directors have no right to put down false figures. It must be remembered that shares are quoted at a certain price, and that a person wishing to buy naturally looks into the balance-sheet to see what the company is doing. If, therefore, assets of the value of £100,000 are put down as only being worth £50,000 the shareholder may be defrauded. A company consequently is not permitted to publish false figures in its balance-sheets. These assets are put down as worth £113,000; yet the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in that generous spirit which I am very sorry to say he is accustomed to exhibit in these matters, is going to give them nearly £250,000.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I must remind the hon. Member that the sum has already been decided on. The only question now is whether the company shall be paid £865,000 or nothing at all.

MR. LABOUCHERE: We are being asked to pay what we believe to be an excessive sum, and we prefer that this clause should be deleted from the Bill and

the measure thrown out, because we feel sure that if that course is adopted the Chancellor of the Exchequer will come forward with a more reasonable proposal next year. We contend that the Bill should be referred to a Committee upstairs, which would find out what the value of the company's assets is. I shall vote for the Amendment.

MR. WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield): Upon this point I think we are in rather a difficult position. It is a serious thing to say—although I do not blame the Government or the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the matter—but in some way or other there is no doubt that there has been what is known in commercial matters as a “job” perpetrated, and three things show it. In the first place the whole assets of the company are valued at £113,000, and the Government are going to pay £115,000 for only a portion of those assets.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: No, no.

MR. WARNER: I notice that we are paying an enormous sum for the goodwill of a losing business, and what are we to take out of the business? We are simply going to pay money for this goodwill for the privilege of losing money. The company still retain their trading powers, and their dividend remains while we are going to pay for the government of the country. The shares of the company have risen to nearly double their value since it was known that the Government were going to purchase. These reasons point to the fact that the Government is giving too much, and that there is some sort of mistake about this transaction. I understand that, after the last Division, the agreement cannot be modified; therefore, I think this proposal had better be rejected altogether. It is a fraud on the taxpayers of the country that this enormous sum should be paid for a thing from which we shall get no income and which is not worth the money. Although I am anxious to see the Chartered Company done away with, I think the price proposed is too great, and I shall vote for the Amendment of my hon. friend.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland): I rise because the Chancellor of the Exchequer has made no attempt to

answer some of the criticisms which have been made in this Debate. We are left without any reply at all to some very damaging criticisms which have just been passed upon this measure. There is one point which the Committee has a right to have cleared up, and that is the difference between the money proposed to be paid for the assets of the company and the figure at which those assets are put down in the company's own balance-sheet. I understand that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has admitted that we are proposing to pay the company more for a portion of these assets than what the whole assets were put down for in the balance-sheet of the company. We understand that the right hon. Gentleman proposes to give £113,000 for steamers, etc., and in addition to this £115,000 for land and mineral and mining rights. It is proposed that :

"the company shall be relieved of all its administrative powers and duties, and shall assign to Her Majesty's Government the benefit of all its trade and all its land and mining rights of whatever sort and however acquired."

I call the attention of the Committee to the fact that we are only getting a portion of the assets for this £115,000.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: It is not a fact that the Government are proposing to pay £115,000 for what has been set down in the company's balance-sheet as being worth only £113,000, because the sum of £115,000 includes a considerable amount of warlike stores and ammunition.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: My interpretation of that would be that the lands which are mentioned in this balance-sheet and in the paragraph I just read are the same, and I take it that a portion of this £115,000 will be for the land.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: No, no.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: I take it that £115,000 represents the price paid for the assets of the company. The assets are set forth in this balance-sheet as being worth £113,000, and we get only a portion of them, so that we are paying £2,000 more for a portion of the assets than the company put down for the whole of them.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: The hon. Member is quite wrong, and I must com-
Mr. T. P. O'Connor.

plain that it is not the first time that he has come in late and repeated criticisms to which I had already replied. I have explained the whole of this matter fully before, and I am not going to waste the time of the House by explaining it again. It is not a fact that we are paying £115,000 for assets which are set down in the balancesheet at £113,000, because other things are included.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: The right hon. Gentleman complains because I came in late, but I would remind the right hon. Gentleman that the Government kept us here until half-past two this morning. There are other hon. Members here who heard the right hon. Gentleman's speech, and they say that the right hon. Gentleman, in their opinion, has not answered this question satisfactorily. Taking the warlike stores at £9,000, it means that we are paying £115,000 for a portion of what was put down in the books of the company as being worth £122,000, and I call that a very bad bargain. The explanation of the right hon. Gentleman is that the company actually under-estimated the value of their own assets. This is one of the most miraculous companies I ever heard of in the world of finance, because it requires a close-fisted Chancellor of the Exchequer to level up its assets beyond the point at which they have estimated them. The Government propose to relieve this company of the administrative portion of their work, upon which they were making a very heavy deficit of £20,000 a year, and we are asked to pay back the money which they have lost. That means that in this excellent bargain we are asked to pay the company a large sum for relieving them of this annual loss. I think the company should pay something to the State for taking over their liabilities. I believe if the Chancellor of the Exchequer had proposed £2,500,000 for this company the House would have accepted his proposal, because hon. Members are anxious to bring the session to an end. I desire to enter my protest against such a very bad bargain being entered into at this late period of the session.

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 171 ;
Noes, 78. (Division List, No. 306.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Arrol, Sir William
 Asher, Alexander
 Atkinson, Right Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
 Baird, John George Alexander
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Man.)
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barnes, Frederic Gorell
 Barry, Rt. Hn. A. H. S.-(Hunts)
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Bethell, Commander
 Bhowaggrree, Sir M. M.
 Bill, Charles
 Bolitho, Thomas Bedford
 Bond, Edward
 Boulnois, Edmund
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodriek, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brookfield, A. Montagu
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Glasgow)
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coddington, Sir William
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colomb, Sir John C. Ready
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)
 Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Crombie, John William
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Donkin, Richard Sim
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn E.
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes

FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose-
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 FitzWygram, General Sir F.
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Fletcher, Sir Henry
 Flower, Ernest
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Garfit, William
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
 Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St Geo.'s)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Hamond, Sir C. (Newcastle)
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. Wm.
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
 Helder, Augustus
 Hill, Sir Edward Stock (Bristol)
 Hoare, E. Brodie (Hampstead)
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
 Howard, Joseph
 Howell, William Tudor
 Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
 Jackson, Rt. Hon. W. Lawies
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hn. Sir U.
 Kimber, Henry
 Knowles, Lees
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning-(Corn)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lecky, Rt. Hon. William E. H.
 Llewellyn, E. H. (Somerset)
 Llewellyn, Sir Dillwyn-(Swan.)
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liv'pool)
 Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
 Lowe, Francis William
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 McKillop, James
 Malcolm, Ian
 Manners, Lord Edward W. J.
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Middlemore, J. Throgmorton

Milton, Viscount
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Penn, John
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pilkington, Sir G. A. (Lancs, SW)
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Priestley, Sir W. O. (Edinburgh)
 Purvis, Robert
 Renshaw, Charles Bine
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matt. W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
 Smith, Jas. Parker (Lanaks.)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Sir H. M. (Lambeth)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Store, Sir Benjamin
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, W. E. Murray
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Whiteley, H. (Asht'n-under-L.)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wrightson, Thomas
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
 Allen, Wm. (Newc.-un'r-Lyme)
 Allison, Robert Andrew
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Billson, Alfred
 Birrell, Augustine
 Blake, Edward
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Caldwell, James
 Carmichael, Sir T. D. Gibson-

Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Colville, John
 Condon, Thomas Joseph
 Crilly, Daniel
 Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
 Davitt, Michael
 Dewar, Arthur
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Duckworth, James
 Dunn, Sir William
 Esmonde, Sir Thomas

Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Gourley, Sir E. Temperley
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
 Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
 Holden, Sir Angus
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W. R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Kinloch, Sir John Geo. Smyth
 Langley, Batty

Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Lough, Thomas
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Crae, George
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
 Molloy, Bernard Charles
 Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
 Morley, Charles (Breckonshire)

Moulton, John Fletcher
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Souttar, Robinson

Steadman, William Charles
 Strachey, Edward
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
 Walton, J. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, John (Govan)
 Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
 Woods, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Dillon and Mr.
 Labouchere.

Clause 2 :—

MR. BUCHANAN: Unless the accounts are concluded within one year some words such as I suggest in the Amendment I rise to move will be necessary in order that we may have an annual account presented to the House under the Act. As the clause now stands there is no provision that there shall be an annual account sent in to the House of Commons by the Comptroller and Auditor-General.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 16, after the word 'Act,' to insert the words 'and in every financial year thereafter.'"—(Mr. Buchanan.)

Question proposed, "That these words be there inserted."

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: There will be no annual accounts, because the principal sum will be expended in this year, and the interest and instalments for repayment will appear in the Colonial Vote as a vote in aid. I think the hon. Member will see that under these circumstances full information will be given.

MR. BUCHANAN: After the explanation of the right hon. Gentleman I beg leave to withdraw my Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clause 3 :—

MR. BUCHANAN: In the course of this Debate the Chancellor of the Exchequer stated that the territories indicated in this clause were not merely the territories at the present moment under the administration of the company.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: No.

MR. BUCHANAN: I was very much surprised when I heard the statement, but the object of this Amendment is to clear up the ambiguity. I think I have accepted the natural and obvious interpretation of the words. There will be considerable difficulty experienced in the working out of this clause, because we have been told that what I may call the maritime part of the company's territory is now to be amalgamated, and will form a part of Southern Nigeria. Under this clause a separate account will have to be kept in the future of the revenue from that part which was not formerly included in the Niger Company's territories. Accepting that interpretation of the words of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, it appears to me that there will be considerable practical difficulty in separating the revenue that comes from that part of Nigeria which was formerly under the administration of the company. I therefore beg to move the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, lines 27 and 28, to leave out the words 'administered by the company at the passing of this Act,' and insert the words, 'of Northern Nigeria, Southern Nigeria, and Lagos.'"—(Mr. Buchanan.)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH explained that the only territories intended to be charged were those now under the administration of the Company.

MR. BUCHANAN: I shall not press the Amendment, as it appears I was under a misapprehension as to a statement of fact.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. BUCHANAN: I desire to move to leave out the last two lines of the clause. This clause purports to make the sum which we are advancing from the Consolidated Fund a debt upon the territories of the Niger Company. The Chancellor of the Exchequer himself told us, in his Second Reading speech, that it did not make an actual debt charge on the revenues of these territories, but that it was more of a pious wish that in the future any surplus revenue might be used in paying off this advance. I should like to have put into the Bill a definite expression of the intention of Parliament that this was to be a formal debt upon the Niger territories, and that when there is a surplus that surplus should be devoted to the purpose of redeeming that debt. In the early part of the clause it is stated that the Treasury are to determine what are to be the receipts from the territory administered by the company in excess of necessary expenses of administration. A certain surplus might a few years hence be yielded, but the value of that provision is almost destroyed by the last two lines, which I wish to leave out. After the Treasury have stated, "Here is a surplus," the Colonial Office can step in and say "No; we want this surplus for the development and improvement of these territories," and the Treasury may give its assent to that diversion of the surplus. Therefore, I hope the Chancellor of the Exchequer will strengthen the Bill by agreeing to the omission of these two last lines.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 29, to leave out from the word 'Exchequer' to end of clause."—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: The Amendment which the hon. Member desires to make would weaken rather than strengthen the clause, because these words are inserted to make it quite clear that the Colonial Office could not apply the surplus revenues of these territories to their development or improvement without the consent of the Treasury. When some years hence these territories have a flourishing revenue—

MR. DILLON: At the end of the next century.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: Long before that. But when these territories have a revenue more than sufficient to pay the ordinary expenses of their administration there will be a surplus, which, if these words were omitted, the Colonial Office might say they wanted for the purpose of improvements; but these words give the Treasury a voice in the matter. It would be a very foolish policy to starve this colony in order that this debt might be repaid the sooner. The colony can only be made prosperous by a reasonable and judicious expenditure in development and improvement, and I think that that expenditure ought to be made only with the assent of the Treasury.

MR. DILLON: If we could make a bargain that the Colonial Office would say, "In the next 50 or 100 years we will spend on the territory all the surplus revenue, provided this House is not called upon to vote any deficit," I would close with it at once.

Question put, and agreed to.

Question proposed, "That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean): I should be glad if the right hon. Gentleman would explain how these revenues are to be distinguished. At the present moment the direct trade is stopped, and we have never had the Report on the troubles which arose from the suppression of the direct trade. I only ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to give some indication of how he proposes to attain his end. I hope the interference with the direct trade will not continue.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH said that he had already stated there would be only one custom-house for all the territories, with the exception of the necessary restrictions on the importation of liquor.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 4 agreed to.

MR. DILLON: In moving the new clause of which I have given notice, I desire to call attention to the extra-

ordinary way in which this Bill has been drafted. We have just been called upon to vote, and have voted, an enormous sum of money for the purchase of certain property, but there is nothing in the Bill which gives the slightest indication of what we are going to get for the money. The only reference to any value to be obtained is contained in the preamble, which has no enactive power. There we are told :

“Whereas it is proposed to transfer to the Crown the administrative powers of the said company and the benefit of the treaties made by the company and the land, property and mining and other rights acquired by the company, but to reserve to them subject to certain exceptions the plant and trade assets, and their stations, buildings, wharves, and workshops and the sites thereof.”

In the whole of the Bill that is the sum total of reference to what we are to get. By those words we are led to suppose that for this money we are acquiring without conditions all the mining and other rights, which may or may not be valuable. But in turning to the Papers which have been supplied to us we find that £150,000 are to be paid to the company for its treaty land and mining rights, and further on there occurs this paragraph: “Her Majesty’s Government will pay to the company or its assigns half of the receipts from any royalty so imposed”—that is, in pursuance of a previous provision that a royalty should be imposed on any mining rights—“for a period of ninety-nine years from the revocation of the charter.” Therefore, while we are called upon to pay this very large sum of money for the mineral rights, the Government are bound under this provision to hamper the mineral industry by the imposition of royalties. From every point of view that is a most vicious principle. In the first place, it checks in its infancy, if any minerals are discovered, the development of the industry; in the second place, it asks the House of Commons to sanction in addition to the payment, which heaven knows is a very generous one, and which we have now voted, an absolutely indefinite payment for the future, for which they give us no value. If some great mineral deposits are discovered we have no idea what revenue this Niger Company may draw from these royalties. It is perfectly monstrous, when even on the admission of the Government the sum of money mentioned in the Bill

is an ample compensation for all the rights we are acquiring, that we should be asked to give in addition to that an indefinite sum on the future resources of the country. We have heard a good deal of criticism and attack on the Government of the Transvaal, but that Government has the most liberal gold laws in the world. But what is the position of the Government of Nigeria? If rich gold mines are discovered they will not be able to imitate President Kruger, and throw those resources open to the industry and enterprise of the world. The dead or living hand of the Niger Company will have been by this iniquitous clause planted upon all the undiscovered resources of the territory, and the company will be able to claim these royalties, which in every other part of the world has been swept away, and which where they have been sought to be enforced have led to disturbance and even to rebellion. What will happen if gold is discovered in Nigeria? You will not be able to enforce the royalties, because the American and Irish will come there, and will very soon kick over the traces and refuse to pay them. Goldminers are a very independent class of people, and are not inclined to be sat upon. You will, thereupon, after paying this monstrous sum, be called upon to compensate the Niger Company for the royalties you are unable to enforce. I turn to the balance-sheet with some interest to see what was the estimate placed upon these great mineral rights by the Niger Company itself. Not a single penny! There is no such item at all. So that really this is an extremely important matter, and I trust the Government will see their way to meet me in some degree at least with regard to this new clause. The other branch of the clause is also a very important matter, because what has happened under the present agreement? The Government are taking over certain lands, but those lands are the leavings of the Niger Company. The Niger Company have retained their other lands for their own purposes. The Chancellor of the Exchequer pronounced a eulogy on the company as patriotic. It may be that these men are patriotic, but it is ridiculous to tell me that the founders of this company were animated by pure patriotism. It was a patriotism founded on pure business principles and dividends. They proposed to carry on their trading business and to

M^r. Dillon.

do so prosperously—so they stated in their circulars to their shareholders—and therefore they reserve all the stations and lands on the banks of the river which are necessary for carrying on their business, and I conclude that the lands handed over to the Government for an enormous sum are their mere leavings and less valuable than those retained by them for trading purposes. Really sixty acres at Copper Beach valued at £25,000 is a large draft on our faith. Inasmuch as there is to be freedom of trade in the future, and as we have paid an enormous price for the land and mineral rights, the fair thing would have been to have handed the lands over to the Government, which would have let to the company whatever lands they require, so that the company should not be able to entrench themselves and boycott other traders as they have done in the past. Unless that is done I say that all this talk of freedom of trade and breaking up a monopoly is sheer humbug, because the company have secured to themselves all the best positions, and any other trader coming in would only get a swamp or some other unhealthy site.

A clause (lands and mineral rights of the company to be transferred to the Crown)—(*Mr. Dillon*): Brought up and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed: “That the Clause be read a second time.”

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: I will not follow the hon. Member and other previous speakers through all their repetitions. In regard to mineral rights I stated to the House on the Second Reading the reasons why the Government thought it best to deal with this subject by way of royalty. It is perfectly true that there is nothing in the balance-sheet of the company about mineral rights, for the obvious reason that there are no trading profits at present from mineral rights, and it is impossible to tell what their value might be. The result was that neither in the valuation of the assets of the company, nor in the balance-sheet could they be entered. I stated to the House that there has been a very wide difference of opinion between Sir G. Goldie and myself as to the possible value of these mineral rights. At

one time he put the value at a million, but that did not appear to me to be a reasonable valuation, and finally, the conclusion came to was that it would be fair that the mineral rights, whatever they might be, should be mainly paid for by reference to what they actually produced. The hon. Member has pictured to the House that the yield of gold in Nigeria will be as large as in the Transvaal, and that there would be great difficulty in meeting the enormous sums we would have to pay the company in royalties; and then he went on to say that the mineral rights are worth nothing at all. If they are worth nothing at all nothing will be paid. If valuable the royalty is not likely to be high; for example, only 2½ per cent. is charged in the Gold Coast Colony. The hon. Member wishes to put a clause in the Bill providing that all the lands and mineral rights now owned by the company should become the property of the Crown, but that would not be a full statement of what we are purchasing from the company. It is quite unnecessary to put any clause of this kind in the Bill. The Government will not pay the company the sum provided in the Bill until some time after the charter has been revoked and sufficient time has elapsed to enable the new administrator of these territories to visit the lands and to see that the company are not retaining in their possession anything contrary to the agreement. I think that this statement ought to satisfy the hon. Member that we do not intend to expand the funds provided by the Bill in any other way than Parliament intends.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I shall support the Amendment. On the Second Reading of the Bill I drew attention to this question of royalties. In regard to the question of the land, I think that the explanation of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, although it goes to a certain extent in the right direction, does not go far enough. I understand him to say that before the money is paid for the land a surveyor will be sent to see that the proper land is handed over, and that there will be no opportunity to the company of manipulating the best sites. But that certainly is not stated in the Treasury Minute. Of course if the lands in connection with the trading centres are left intact in the hands of the company, although the monopoly on paper disap-

pears, the company will practically have still a very substantial monopoly. There is another point with regard to these lands which the right hon. Gentleman has said nothing about. That is that when the company made these treaties with the native kings, in large numbers of cases the company bound themselves to pay certain sums annually to the native chiefs. Are the lands and mineral rights to be taken over apart from the annual payments to the native chiefs? I think there was a great deal of force in what the hon. Member for East Mayo said in regard to royalties. They will hamper the power of the Government in dealing with the proper development of industry. I believe that the principle of royalties is an exploded idea. The principle now adopted is the direct taxation of the profits of the mines. The Minute of the Treasury itself deals with that point, and prevents the imposing of specific taxation on the mining industry as hampering its development. The Government therefore prevent themselves from dealing with these mining properties in the best way, because they have agreed to give these royalties for ninety-nine years. The large sum of £865,000 ought to be taken as inclusive of all the rights and privileges of the company. I think these royalties will very seriously hamper the Government in dealing with an important part of their revenue, and will very largely prevent the development of the country. I shall certainly support my hon. friend's Amendment.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: I very much welcome my hon. friend's condemnation of this Bill, but I think he has not sufficiently dwelt on the clause giving half the receipts from mining royalties to the company. My interpretation of this clause is that it gives the company practically the last word with regard to the taxation that may be imposed on the mining industry. Suppose the Government decided that the tax on that industry should be an income tax, the company could prevent it.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: That would not be the effect of the clause.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: I am very glad to hear it, and to have that matter cleared up. Now I come to the question

Mr. Sydney Buxton.

of the lands. The right hon. Gentleman has said that none of the money will be paid over until the Government agents have surveyed the land, and have seen that the company has not preserved all the valuable land for itself.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: It has been contended over and over again that we have not made a bargain with the company that will enable free trade to be carried on on the Niger. We contend that we have, and we shall take care by the check exercised by administrators on the spot that the company in the future will not be able to prevent free trade.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: By preserving certain stations they will be able still to retain a monopoly. I would point out that the agents of the Government will not be able to deal with a free hand with this matter, because the lands are set forth in this document, and they will not be able to pick and choose. To that extent I think that the right hon. Gentleman has unduly narrowed the power of the Government. I do not think it will be in the power of the right hon. Gentleman ever again to say one word with regard to the taxation of the mining industry in the Transvaal, or in any other part of the world, in face of this provision. I do not know whether there is mining wealth or not on the Niger, but the right hon. Gentleman made allusions to the possibility of gold being there. Fancy the monstrous position in which the Government will find itself, should a great gold industry grow up, in having to pay to the company for a period of ninety-nine years half the mining royalties in addition to the moneys they now obtain.

MR. LABOUCHERE: I should like to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer where the company derive their title to these mining rights. They have about 300 treaties, but I find that not one of them states that the mining rights have been given up by the native prince or chief. The company has no more right to them than I have. We shall have to insist on depriving the natives of these rights, and then we will have to give half the royalties to the company.

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: As I have repeatedly stated, the company derives these mining rights from treaties made in the empires of Sokoto and Gandu, which extend over considerably larger areas than the area defined in the Treasury Minute. I am not an authority on the effect of these treaties, but that is the interpretation placed upon them.

MR. LABOUCHERE: When the House of Commons is asked to give a certain sum of money, and to levy royalty on mines in the empires of Sokoto and Gandu, we ought to have the treaties before us, in order that we may know whether the company have acquired these rights. But we ought to have some sort of assurance, before we pledge ourselves to charge a royalty and to give a certain proportion to the company, that the company have really acquired a good title to those minerals. The company state that these rights are worth a million, and I would suggest to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to give the company £500,000 less, and leave the company in possession of all these rights for what they may be worth. Personally, I do not believe they are worth twopence.

DR. CLARK: Of all the elements in this bad bargain, I think this is the worst of the lot. Under it we are compelled to impose a royalty on all minerals. Until now all royalties were limited to gold and silver, but now all minerals are to be included. The hon. Member for East Mayo spoke of the result of royalties in Australia. I should like to say a word as to royalties in Great Britain. The hon. Member for Merthyr, who has had great experience of gold mining in Australia, found good reefs in Wales. He developed a few mines, but the industry was confiscated by the late Chancellor of the Exchequer by the royalties he placed

on the mines. By this provision also you limit the method of taxation. I hope my hon. friend will take a Division. We are doing enough in paying away hundreds and thousands of pounds, and we ought certainly to prevent the imposition of a so-called royalty on gold for the first time.

MR. MCKENNA (Monmouth, N.): I wish to draw the attention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to a very simple point. Will it not be the case that for the first time the power of imposing royalties will be granted by this agreement, and will not the company get half the royalties in respect to territory where at the present moment they do not possess mining rights at all?

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: No doubt it is the case that the company have had mining rights over a far larger area than is specified in the Treasury Minute, from which they will receive half royalties, and there is a portion of territory not included in that area; therefore, so far, they will have royalties where they are not entitled to mining rights. This was made matter for discussion and bargain between Sir G. Goldie and myself.

MR. MCKENNA: I am much obliged to the right hon. Gentleman for his explanation, but there is this further point. There are three parties concerned—the Government, the company, and the natives—and, presumably, the rights in the new territory belong to the natives. We ought not, therefore, to take them away.

Question put—

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 89; Noes, 160. (Division List, No. 307.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondla)
Allison, Robert Andrew
Asher, Alexander
Atherley-Jones, L.
Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. B. (Clackm.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Augustine
Blake, Edward

Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carmichael, Sir T. D. Gibson

Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
Colville, John
Crilly, Daniel
Crombie, John William
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
Dalziel, James Henry
Dewar, Arthur
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles

Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Duckworth, James
Dunn, Sir William
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Sir F. H. (South'ton)
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
Foster, Sir W. (Derby Co.)
Gourley, Sir E. Temperley
Haywood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
Holland, W. H. (York, W.R.)
Horniman, Frederick John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt Hn Sir U
Kinloch, Sir John Geo. Smyth
Labouchere, Henry
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)

Leng, Sir John
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Macaleese, Daniel
McCrae, George
McEwan, William
McLaren, Charles Benjamin
Maddison, Fred.
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Oldroyd, Mark
Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
Palmer, George W. (Reading)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh

Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarshire)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Steadman, William Charles
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Tennant, Harold John
Walton, J. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wedderburn, Sir William
Williams, John Carvell (Nots.)
Wilson, Charles Henry (Hull)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Govan)
Wilson, Jos. H. (Middlesbrough)
Woods, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Dillon and Mr.
McKenna.

NOES.

Aird, John
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold, Alfred
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barry, Rt. Hn. A. H. S. (Hunts.)
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, Charles
Bill, Charles
Bolitho, Thomas Bedford
Boulnois, Edmund
Bowles, T. G. (King's Lynn)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, A. Montagu
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Glasgow)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Clarke, Sir Edw. (Plymouth)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir Jno. Chas. Ready
Colston, Charles E. H. Athole
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd)
Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard H.
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Curzon, Viscount
Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
Dalkeith, Earl of
Denny, Colonel

Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Donkin, Richard Sim
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, William Theodore
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir W. Hart
Fellows, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manch'r)
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzWygram, General Sir F.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lon)
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. George's)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamond, Sir C. (Newcastle)
Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robt. Wm.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Heaton, John Henniker
Hill, Sir Edw. Stock (Bristol)
Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
Howard, Joseph
Howell, William Tudor
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks)
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Llewelyn, Sir D. (Swansea)
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine

Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverp'l)
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macedona, John Cumming
McKillop, James
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Edward W. J.
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milward, Colonel Victor
Monk, Charles James
More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Penn, John
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Priestley, Sir W. O. (Edin.)
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. E.
Purvis, Robert
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Savory, Sir Joseph
Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
Spencer, Ernest
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirky)
Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
Stanley, Sir Henry M. (Lambeth)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strauss, Arthur
Sutherland, Sir Thomas
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.)

Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest

Valentia, Viscount
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-u.-Lyne)

Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wrightson, Thomas
Wylie, Alexander

Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

MR. DILLON: Not wishing to be too severe upon the patience of the House, I will confine myself to one of the three Amendments standing in my name on the Paper, though I should very much like to move the whole three. I think it is extremely important that the preamble should be amended by the addition of the words embodied in my second Amendment:—

“And whereas there was also in the charter a clause prohibiting the Royal Niger Company from establishing any monopoly of trade in the regions committed to its charge.”

There can be no doubt, practically speaking, that the Niger Company did, throughout the whole course of its administration, carry on its operations in opposition to the spirit of the clause of the charter. When we raised that point on another stage of the Bill, what did the Chancellor of the Exchequer say? He said it was true that the policy of the Niger Company in establishing a monopoly throughout its ten years of existence had been the subject of careful consideration. But he said the Foreign Office were advised by their legal advisers that while the Niger Company were undoubtedly using their power to establish a complete monopoly of trade, they were not breaking the law, and that all they were doing was technically covered by the provisions of the charter. That was a very ugly condition of things, and I think the Government, which had ample power to revoke the charter, are seriously to blame for allowing the Chartered Company to carry on their operations in the teeth of the spirit of this clause of the charter. Inasmuch as a number of facts are proposed to be set forth in the preamble, I think I am justified in insisting, as I now propose to move, that amongst those facts should be set forth the fact that there was contained in the charter a clause prohibiting the company from doing just that very thing which they did do—viz., from setting up a monopoly of trade. I beg to move.

Amendment proposed—

“In the Preamble, page 1, line 5, after ‘territories,’ to insert, ‘And whereas there was also in the said charter a clause prohibiting the Royal Niger Company from establishing any monopoly of trade in the regions committed to its charge.’”—(Mr. J. Dillon).

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: The hon. Member desires to add to the first sentence of the preamble a statement with regard to one particular clause of the charter, which prohibits the company from establishing any monopoly of trade. I can see no reason for selecting that particular clause for insertion in the preamble; no other clause is inserted therein. Moreover, the insertion of the words would have no enactive power whatever, and would not make the slightest difference in the provisions of the Bill.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: It has been pointed out that a clause in this charter re-enacts the whole of the provisions of the general Act of Berlin. When the law officers gave their opinion upon the charter, and passed that charter as one to which the Crown ought to assent, they must have thought we were going to act upon the provisions of the Berlin Act as recited in the charter. This is a matter of some importance. It is certain we shall have to pay damages for acts of the company in violation of the Berlin Act. There is no doubt whatever that claims have been made against the company, and those claims will have to be met by the Government. I think my hon. friend is justified in calling attention to the matter, and in trying to put something in regard to it in the preamble of the Bill. The Berlin Act, with regard to the navigation of the Niger, is extraordinarily strong in its terms. It seems to have foreseen all the difficulties which afterwards arose. It gives freedom of navigation, not in mere general terms, but in a whole series of clauses; and it expressly stated that trade on the Niger

should not be exposed to any obligation in respect of landing stages and depôts. That is exactly what trade in the Niger has been exposed to. That Act has been distinctly broken, and the company will be held responsible, and damages, if not paid by the company, will afterwards have to be paid by us. Therefore, I think it is almost essential that some reference should be made to these events, for which this House will undoubtedly have to make some provision in the future.

*MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: I think the right hon. Gentleman should really give us some answer to the important point which has been raised. What is the nature of these claims, and their extent? If it is true that, in taking over the territories and powers of this company, we are also taking over the responsibility for these outstanding questions between this company and France, it is a very serious addition to the burden we are taking over. If a large number of claims are outstanding which are to be placed on the shoulders of this country, it may be that, instead of paying £860,000 for the company, we shall have to pay double that amount. I certainly think the point is worth the attention of, and deserves explanation from, those who are responsible for this Bill.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: This point was raised by the right hon. Baronet on the introduction of the Bill. I then stated that, though there was a claim against the company, there was a much larger claim by the company against France for injuries done to them on the Niger. It is not a matter upon which I, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, can express an opinion, but the Foreign Office has the matter fully before it.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS rose to continue the discussion.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I do not see how the question of claims by France or any other country against this company can be raised on the question whether certain words should be inserted in the preamble with reference to monopoly of trade. It seems to me to be outside the motion now before the Committee.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: That is what I was going to point out. But this
Sir Charles Dilke.

addition to the preamble would make no difference in the liabilities of Her Majesty's Government, either towards France or towards the company. The fact that there are other claims of the company against France is a very important matter in favour of this Bill. I should be very glad if the Chancellor of the Exchequer would tell us the amount of those claims.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I do not see how the question of outstanding claims can be entered upon on the Amendment now before the Committee.

MR. DILLON: The Chancellor of the Exchequer did not give any reason why he should not accept this Amendment. All he said was that it was the only reference to a particular clause, and he did not see what good it would do. I attach great importance to it. I know the preamble has no enactive force, but it is a statement of facts, and it states a number of facts as forming the basis of this great grant of money. It is an all-important fact that the company were bound not to set up a monopoly, and it may be a strong argument in disputes which may arise between the Government and the company in reference to claims for various things; I think it would strengthen the hands of the Government against the company.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorgan, Mid.): I really think the right hon. Gentleman has not sufficiently answered this point. This Amendment of the preamble constitutes a recital setting up what is the claim of the Government against the Chartered Company. It shows that we claim that at the time of entering into this agreement any liability which the company had incurred would still continue a liability of the company and would not become a liability of this country. It is surely most important if there are outstanding liabilities that we should put in the very front of our Bill a statement that we are not liable for those liabilities, and that the company, although they handed over to us all their existing interests in the territory, did not thereby get rid of their outstanding liabilities.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: It would not do any good to put this in the preamble, and moreover it is really a statement.

contrary to the facts as stated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer—that the company were not prohibited by the terms—

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: He never said that.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I took his words down. He said that the monopoly which was set up was not contrary to the terms of the charter.

MR. DILLON: That is quite a mistake. Here are the words of Article 14:—

“Nothing in this one charter should be deemed to authorise the company to set up or grant any monopoly of trade.”

How can you get over those words?

MR. MCKENNA: The observations of the hon. Member for King's Lynn are the strongest argument in favour of the insertion of these words, so that there may be no doubt with regard to the monopoly of trade. I hope the Chancellor of the Exchequer will accept these words, as they would make the fact much clearer than it is at present.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: This is a very important point. Look at the position in which the right hon. Gentleman places himself and the Government. He now states the Government will have present to their minds the fact that there are large outstanding claims against the company. Those claims may or may not be compensated for by the claims of the company against the French Government. Surely before we pay over this money to the company, they should give a free bill of health to the Government with regard to all these things. Can the right hon. Gentleman not introduce a few words to secure this? If the French Government make good their claim against the company, and the company fail to make good their claim against France, then there will be an addition to the liabilities of the company, and a large increase in the amount the Government will be called upon to pay. Will the Government undertake to safeguard us against that?

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: If the hon. Member thinks that we are going to pay the company the money provided under the Bill, and to allow the company to impose upon us payment for some injury

done by the company to France, he is much mistaken.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: That is a most satisfactory statement. But why not set it forth expressly in the Bill? I hope that between this and another stage the Chancellor of the Exchequer will see his way to put in words to secure this end.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: The assurance given by the right hon. Gentleman is most satisfactory. It concedes the principle for which we fought in vain in the case of the British East Africa Company.

MR. LABOUCHERE: After that assurance I think we may be perfectly certain that the Chancellor of the Exchequer will keep in hand a sufficient sum to meet any claims of this sort, so that the company, and not the country, will have to pay.

MR. DILLON: I am strongly of opinion that the words should be inserted in the Bill, but after the assurance given by the right hon. Gentleman I ask leave to withdraw my Amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Preamble agreed to.

Bill reported without Amendment; to be read the third time To-morrow.

IMPROVEMENT OF LAND BILL.

As amended (by the Standing Committee), considered.

Motion made, and Question proposed, “That the Bill be now read the third time.”

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid): I do not think this motion should be pressed, considering the way in which this Bill has been dealt with.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. LONG, Liverpool, West Derby): The Bill was one of the first Bills brought in this session. It was very carefully considered by the Standing Committee.

MR. CALDWELL: It was not considered very carefully by the House at

all. What I have to complain of is the substitution of the authority of the Board of Agriculture for that of the Secretary for Scotland in matters affecting the operation of the Bill in Scotland, and also that six English Acts of Parliament are being applied to Scotland without adequate revision of the machinery, and without attempting in any way to adapt those Acts to the peculiar circumstances of Scotland. For instance, in England certain matters must have the assent of a certain court; what court are you going to set up in Scotland for the purpose? How are you to apply the procedure of an English court to a Scotch court? The difficulties are immense, and they do not seem to have been appreciated by those who framed the Bill. When Bills are sent to a Standing Committee no one takes any particular interest in them. The result is that your Bill is passed through in about two hours, and is supposed to have been examined. Bills which mainly affect Scotland are not considered from a Scotch point of view, and in this particular case I do not find that a single Amendment was moved from a Scotch point of view. I could have understood this proposal if you had been extending it to mansion houses, workmen's dwellings, or matters of that kind; but you are giving these powers for other purposes altogether without any check upon them by this House. I recognise that at the present moment, at this late period of the session, it is no use discussing Bills. Here we are now passing Bills at half-past six on a Wednesday without any discussion. I find that we only passed eleven Acts of Parliament this session before the 17th of this month, whereas since you suspended the rule you have passed about thirty Bills. Will anyone say that that is allowing fair discussion? Is it fair to drive a

Bill on like this to-night after keeping us here till half-past two this morning? It is part of the duty of the Opposition to criticise these Bills, and it is in the interests of the country that such criticism should be adequate and effective. You are preventing us from doing that now, and no previous Government ever suspended the rule for such a long period as you have done. You are now applying us to a month of the rack instead of the guillotine. You can keep us here as long as you like, but I may say that your action will form a precedent for the Liberal Government when it comes into power, and all we can do now is simply to protest against this system of legislation going on at this late hour, for you know perfectly well that you are passing a Bill which has not received the discussion which it ought to receive.

MR. WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield): I think this Bill was rushed through one of its stages very unexpectedly. In its present condition it is a Bill simply to encourage the landlords, and I think the least we can expect from the Government is that they should allow the Debate on the Third Reading to be adjourned. I do not think it is fair to try and rush a Bill like this through in five minutes. The measure has never been seriously considered by the House, for there was scarcely any Debate on the Second Reading. I beg to move, therefore, "that the Debate be now adjourned."

Motion made and Question put, "That the Debate be now adjourned."—(*Mr. Courtenay Warner.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 48; Noes, 125. (Division List, No. 308.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Asher, Alexander
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. B. (Clackm.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Augustine
Broadhurst, Henry
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Caldwell, James
Carmichael, Sir T. D. Gibson-
Cawley, Frederick
Colville, John

Crilly, Daniel
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
Dalziel, James Henry
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Duckworth, James
Fenwick, Charles
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Kinloch, Sir John George S.
Langley, Batty

Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
Leng, Sir John
Lewis, John Herbert
Macaleese, Daniel
M'Crae, George
M'Ewan, William
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Maddison, Fred.
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Oldroyd, Mark
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Price, Robert John

Mr. Caldwell.

Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Strachey, Edward

Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Weldderburn, Sir William
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Courtenay Warner and
Mr. Davitt.

NOES.

Arnold, Alfred
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline Fitz Roy
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Man' r)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Boulnois, Edmund
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Glasgow)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Here'd)
Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard H.
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Curzon, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of
Denny, Colonel
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, William Theodore
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart

Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Man' r)
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
Flannery, Sir Fortes cue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (C. of Lond.)
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. George's)
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hill, Sir Edward Stock (Bristol)
Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
Howard, Joseph
Howell, William Tudor
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Knowles, Lee
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks)
Llewellyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swans.)
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
Lopes, Henry Yarde Buller
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdonald, John Cumming
McKillop, James
Manners, Lord Edw. Wm. J.
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milward, Colonel Victor
Monk, Charles James
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert

Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nichol, Donald Ninian
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Priestley, Sir W. Overend (Edin.)
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Charles T.
Samuel, H. S. (Limehouse)
Savory, Sir Joseph
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Spencer, Ernest
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strauss, Arthur
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Uni.)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Valentia, Viscount
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Wrightson, Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

Original Question again proposed.

*SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): The Amendments placed on the Paper by the hon. Member for East Northamptonshire I think are well worthy of discussion, for they raise very important questions in regard to the general administration of the Bill, and I regret that we are likely to lose the opportunity of having the opinion of the House expressed upon them. This Bill provides that landowners can, under sanction of a Government Department, borrow money for a longer period and under more favourable conditions than under former Acts. In the early period of this legislation money was practically directed by Statute to be applied to specific purposes, among them

being the erection of cottages for labourers on the land, and also the erection of mansions for landlords. What we complain of is that during the last few years the tendency has been to use money borrowed under these Acts rather for the purpose of building mansions than labourers' cottages; and when we see on all sides that the agricultural labourer is housed as badly as the poor in our city slums, I think an opportunity like this should not be lost for putting into an Act of Parliament some direction that the money should be used for the purpose of providing better houses for the working classes. The value of land depends on the number of people who live on it, and sparsely populated land is of comparatively little value. Therefore it is to the interest of every owner of land to encourage as

far as possible the number of dwellers on his estate, and I believe we should increase the rural population by putting into this Act a clause which would earmark a certain proportion of this money for the useful purpose of housing the poor in the agricultural districts. That some such clause is necessary will be seen from the following figures. During the earlier years of this legislation we find, to the credit of landowners be it said, that twice as much was spent on the erection of cottages as on mansions. I make the figures to show for the whole period the return covers, 1847 to 1894, that £566,000 was spent on mansions, and £1,067,000 on labourers' dwellings. But if we take the more recent years, 1873 to 1894, the relation is altered, for mansions stand for £549,000, while cottages stand for £725,000 only; and when we come to the years 1879 to 1894, the period of agricultural depression, the relation is still less satisfactory, for mansions had more spent on them than labourers' cottages, viz., £430,000 as against £377,000. This tendency is still more marked in the years 1895 to 1897. Thus under these Acts more and more, we may infer, is being spent on mansions and less and less on cottages, and the money is not consequently being expended for the benefit of the greater number of the community. We have been unable to amend this Bill either in Committee or on Report, but I think the Government ought even now to endeavour to insert a provision that a certain proportion of any money raised under the Act should be directed into the useful channel of providing better accommodation for the poor in rural districts.

*MR. SPEAKER: I think I ought to tell the House that it has just come to my knowledge that a mistake has been made by me as regards the question put. The hon. Member for Mid Lanarkshire claimed a short time back that the question: "That this Bill be now considered" should be put, and I, understanding one of the clerks to state that that question had been disposed of on a previous day, declined to put it, and called on the hon. Member who had Amendments on the Paper, but who was absent. I must have misunderstood what was said, for I now find that that stage has not been passed, and therefore I think I ought at once to put the House in possession of the facts. I should suggest that an opportunity should be

Sir Walter Foster.

given for the discussion of the Amendments on the Paper, and probably there would be no difficulty about re-committing the Bill for that purpose.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Can that be done after the question for the Third Reading has been put from the Chair?

*MR. SPEAKER: An hon. Member may move as an Amendment to leave out all after "That" in order to insert, "this Bill be re-committed in respect of the Amendments now on the Paper."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: If the Government assent to that course, as we have every desire to do, would it be competent for hon. Members to move and discuss Amendments other than those on the Paper? Technically I believe that would be possible.

*MR. SPEAKER: They could not do so if the Amendment was in the form I suggest. The circumstances being somewhat peculiar, I thought that the House would probably be willing to accept some kind of a compromise.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The Government will, of course, not resist any motion to enable the Amendments on the Paper which have been unexpectedly cut out to be discussed, but on the other hand I take it it is agreed on all sides that no other Amendments will be moved.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the words 'now read the third time,' and insert the words 're-committed in respect of the Amendments now on the Notice Paper.'"—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)

Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question," put and negatived.

Words added.

Bill recommitted in respect of the Amendments now on the Notice Paper for To-morrow.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. BUCHANAN: Could the Leader of the House state what will be the first business for Thursday?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The next stage of the Naval Works Bill.

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made, and Question, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Mr. Balfour.*) put and agreed to.

House adjourned at Five Minutes before Seven of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 27th July, 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

CHARING CROSS, EUSTON, AND
HAMPSTEAD RAILWAY BILL.

BROMPTON AND PICCADILLY CIRCUS
RAILWAY BILL.

Committee to meet To-morrow.

LEA BRIDGE DISTRICT GAS BILL
[H.L.].

SUNDERLAND CORPORATION BILL
[H.L.].

Commons Amendments considered, and
agreed to.

MENSTONE WATER BILL.

Read 3^a, and passed.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (MONEY)
BILL.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (GENERAL
POWERS) BILL.

BOOTLE CORPORATION BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and
passed, and returned to the Commons.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 4) BILL.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 12) BILL.

BAKER STREET AND WATERLOO
RAILWAY BILL.

DERBY CORPORATION TRAMWAYS,
&c., BILL.

LONDON UNITED TRAMWAYS BILL.

REDDITCH GAS BILL.

STOCKPORT CORPORATION BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the
Amendments agreed to.

LOUGHBOROUGH CORPORATION
BILL [H.L.].

MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR
BOARD (FINANCE) BILL [H.L.].

PORT TALBOT RAILWAY AND
DOCKS BILL [H.L.].

WHITEHAVEN CORPORATION BILL
[H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed
to, with Amendments; the said Amend-
ments considered and agreed to.

VOL. LXXV. [FOURTH SERIES.]

LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN RAIL-
WAY (ADDITIONAL POWERS) BILL

Returned from the Commons with the
Amendments made by the Lords agreed
to, with Amendments, and a consequential
Amendment to the Bill.

BURGH POLICE (SCOTLAND) PRO-
VISIONAL ORDER BILL.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL
ORDER (No. 20) BILL.

House to be in Committee To-morrow.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL
ORDER (No. 14) BILL.

Read 3^a (according to Order), with the
Amendments, and passed, and returned
to the Commons.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL
ORDER (No. 15) BILL.

Read 3^a (according to Order), and
passed.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP (DAN-
GEROUS TRADES).

Fourth Interim Report of the Depart-
mental Committee appointed by the
Secretary of State for the Home Depart-
ment to inquire into and report upon
certain miscellaneous dangerous trades.
Supplementary report and evidence on
the manufacture and use of grindstones
and on file cutting.

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY.

Accounts and estimates for the years
1896-1900.

INDIA (CURRENCY).

Despatch of the Secretary of State for
India in Council to the Governor-General
of India in Council, dated the 25th of
July, 1899, respecting the report of the
Committee appointed to inquire into the
Indian currency.

AFRICA, No. 7 (1899).

Correspondence respecting the "African
Liquor Traffic Convention signed at Brus-
sels 8th June, 1899.

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SCIENCE AND ART DEPARTMENT.

Calendar, history, and general summary of regulations for the year 1900, with tables.

Presented (by Command) ; and ordered to lie on the Table.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS (DIFFERENT MEAL HOURS) (SPINNING OF ARTIFICIAL SILK).

Order made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, dated 20th July, 1899, extending to factories or workshops in which the spinning of artificial silk is carried on, the special exceptions with regard to meal hours contained in Section 52 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PETITIONS.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour of ; of the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of Galashiels ; the Commissioners of Tillicoultry ; the Edinburgh Merchants' Association ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

Petitions for amendment of ; of the Royal Parliamentary and Police Burghs of Scotland ; the Magistrates and Town Council of Dunfermline ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

Petition of Colonel David Milne Home for return of two documents produced in evidence before the Committee of Privileges on the Marchmont Peerage claim in 1842 ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

GORDON MEMORIAL COLLEGE AT KHARTOUM BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to.

OYSTERS BILL [H.L.].

House to be in Committee on Monday next.

TITHE RENT-CHARGE (RATES) BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order).

Clause 1 :—

*LORD HERRIES: My Lords, I was unfortunately prevented from being in my place when the Second Reading of this Bill was taken, and I should like, therefore, to make one or two observations upon Clause 1, and, if necessary, to move the omission of the clause. I regret very much that Her Majesty's Government have brought in this Bill, especially at so late a period of the session, and I regret it for several reasons. In the first place, although the amount of money which is to be handed over to the tithe-owner is small, a very serious principle is involved, and as one interested in the rating question, I feel that it is rather important, in the interests of the local taxpayer, that the principle which was adopted when the Agricultural Rates Act became law should be adhered to. I remember that, at the time that Act was passed, the principal argument of those who upheld it was that rates were a tax on capital, and that if a landowner or tenant farmer, by means of his capital, doubled the rateable value of his land, his rates would also be doubled. It was also argued that land was the raw material upon which a farmer depended for his trade, and that for that reason it was unfair that it should be taxed. I took this line myself, and was strongly in favour of the rates being taken off land in consequence of the injury they did to the capital of the farm. But it appears in this Bill that the principle has been extended to those whose capital is not affected in any way, and whose incomes are fixed. The unfortunate thing about this Bill is, that in those counties in which the tithe is highest the relief will be greatest. Let me give you the instance of Essex, where the commuted tithes amount to an average of 5s. per acre throughout the county, and to a total of £250,000 a year. This amount is equal to 6s. per head of the population. In Lancashire, the amount of tithe is only £75,000 a year, and the relief of the tithe-owner in Lancashire will not be great in consequence. The tithe-owner in Essex receives 5s. for every acre in the county, and 6s. 4d. per head of the population. In Lancashire, he only receives 4½d. per head of the population. In Northumberland he receives 1s. 1½d. per acre, or 3s. per head of the population. In the County of Hereford, it is at the

rate of 13s. 6d. for every head of the population. Surely, you would think that the tithe-owner who received so large a sum as 13s. 6d. per head of the population was receiving enough; but it is in the counties where the tithes are the highest that the owner will receive the most benefit under this Bill. This will fall very heavily on the local taxpayer, because, if the money were not given to the tithe-owner, it would go to the relief of the general rates. In my opinion the ratepayer has a prior right to it. A good deal has been said as to whether tithe-owners are liable to pay rates. I think it is clear that in the years immediately preceding the Tithe Commutation Act tithe-owners did pay rates. It will be seen from questions which arose, especially in Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk, that the rates which were paid by the tithe-owners in those days were very high indeed. In 1833 and 1834 the Poor Rate alone was, I believe, sometimes as high as 10s. in the £. I am of opinion that the reason the tithes in Essex and Suffolk are so high, is that when the Commissioners under the Tithe Commutation Act inspected the different districts, they found that the rates were so high that they increased the tithes with a view of protecting the tithe-owner from any danger which would accrue in consequence of these high rates. It is for these reasons, and not through any want of respect for the clergymen, who have so well performed their duties in the various parishes, that I condemn the principle of this Bill. Tithes are no doubt the property of the tithe-owner, but they carry with them the obligation to pay rates, and by passing this Bill you are injuring the chance of the Agricultural Rates Act being prolonged, and only conferring a temporary benefit on the clergy of the Church of England.

THE EARL OF SELBORNE: My Lords, I do not understand that the noble Lord has made any motion, but it would not be entirely courteous to him if I left his remarks unanswered, although he has travelled over ground which I thought was fairly covered during the Debate on the Second Reading. As regards his general criticism of the reasons why this Bill has been introduced, I can only refer him to the statement of the Government. They have introduced this simply as a

rating question, to remedy what in their opinion is a great injustice, and an injustice which has remained too long unredressed. As to the second point of the noble Lord, that the relief to be given would not correspond exactly with the prospective amounts taken from the Local Taxation Account, county by county, Her Majesty's Government entirely admit that fact; but the point for which we have contended is that it is perfectly within the competence of Parliament, and within the original intention of the Local Taxation Account, to redistribute a prospective advance in this way. I know this view does not command the universal consent of your Lordships. This sum is only a prospective advance. I find that the average annual increase during the past eight years in the whole of the Local Taxation Account has not been less than £100,000 per annum, and the total amount proposed to be taken under the Bill is £87,000. Therefore, under no circumstances will this Bill take anything from any county which it ever had before. It simply forestalls to a certain extent the proportion of the prospective increase to which they might otherwise have looked forward. The noble Lord has accounted for the high tithe in Essex by the theory that a special allowance was added to the Essex tithes by the Tithe Commissioners in 1836 in order to make up to the tithe-owner the large amount of rates for which he was liable. That was a point which I endeavoured to deal with in my speech on the Second Reading, and I trust the noble Lord will allow me to assure him respectfully that there is not the shadow of a shade of foundation for that theory. The owner of a farm, when he lets his farm, receives from his tenant a certain rent. What he receives from his tenant is not the letting value of his farm. If anybody wants to ascertain the exact letting value of a farm, he must add to the amount of rent which the owner receives the amount of income-tax which the tenant pays to the Inland Revenue on his account, and which he deducts from the rent. That is exactly what happened in the case of the Essex tithe-owners. They had in most cases made a composition with the tithe-payer. Suppose an Essex tithe-owner had arranged with a tithe-payer that the value of his tithe was £400 a year. In most cases the tithe-owner would say to the tithe-payer,

"You pay me £350, and pay the £50 which I should have to pay in rates for me." This was not done in all cases. In some cases the tithe-owners decided to receive the composition in full and discharge the rates themselves. But in those cases where this arrangement was not made, in order to arrive at the full value of the tithe rent-charge, the Commissioners had to add to what the tithe-owner received from the tithe-payer the amount the tithe-payer paid in rates on behalf of the tithe-owner. Those two together made the true composition, and the allowance in respect of rates to which the noble Lord has alluded was simply in connection with this arrangement. The Tithe Commissioners have left on absolute record that they never made any allowance for the payment of rates as such, or in other words, they never added anything to the commutation on the ground that the tithe-owner was heavily rated. I trust the noble Lord will be satisfied with that explanation.

Clauses 1, 2, 3, and 4 agreed to; Bill reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^a to-morrow.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD (IRELAND) BILL.

SECOND READING.

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

THE EARL OF DENBIGH: My Lords, the Bill which I have to ask your Lordships to read a second time is a short one, and one which has not met with any opposition in the other House. It is in the nature of a Departmental Bill for the purpose of remedying certain defects which have been made apparent in the operations of the Congested Districts Board, which has already done so much good in Ireland. Your Lordships will remember that that Board was to a certain extent an experiment, and, in the course of the years during which it has been operating, certain difficulties have arisen which this Bill is intended to remove. The first clause provides that an offer for the purchase of an estate by the Board shall be considered before the estate is offered to the tenants. Clauses

The Earl of Selborne.

2, 3, and 4 deal with matters of detail, such as provision for redemption of superior interests in case of purchase of land by the Congested Districts Board and limit of advance. Clause 5 makes a permanent provision of £25,000 a year for the expenses of the Board. The Chief Secretary in the other House pointed out that the real addition to the income of the Congested Districts Board which was proposed by this Bill was about £18,000 or £19,000. I beg to move the Second Reading of the Bill.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^a."
—(*The Earl of Denbigh.*)

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the whole House To-morrow.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

SECOND READING.

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

*THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Lord BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH): My Lords, I do not think I need detain the House many minutes by going over the history of the various attempts which have been made to legislate upon the subject dealt with by this Bill, nor do I think I need say much as to the general case for legislation of this kind, because both Houses of Parliament have, by their attitude in regard to the Bills which have been before them, practically admitted that there is a case for this legislation. So long ago as 1888, a Joint Committee of both Houses was appointed to discuss this question, and endeavoured to find a remedy for some of the grievances and difficulties which were then admitted to exist. The minority of that Joint Committee recommended that a remedy should be found by attempting to extend the system of legislation by Provisional Order, and it is largely upon the report of the minority of that Committee that this Bill is founded. In 1897, a Bill on the same general lines as this Bill was pre-

presented to your Lordships' House, and after being discussed by a Select Committee, was passed through all its stages and sent to the House of Commons. In 1898, a Bill very much the same as the one which was passed by the Select Committee of your Lordships' House was introduced in the House of Commons, and referred to a Select Committee of that House. The Select Committee did not report until so late a period of the session as to prevent more progress with the Bill last year. This year the Bill has again been introduced into the other House of Parliament, and has, after a careful discussion in Committee of the whole House, passed through all its stages. It is that Bill which I now ask your Lordships to read a second time. I think the best course I can take, and the one most convenient to your Lordships, is to briefly indicate the chief changes which have been made by the other House of Parliament since the Bill was passed by your Lordships in 1897. Generally, I may say, that all those changes have had for their object the strengthening of Parliamentary control over projects of private legislation. Notices for Provisional Orders may, under the Orders to be prescribed under the provisions of this Bill, be somewhat shorter, simpler, and less expensive than notices for Parliamentary Bills; but it is in the power of either House to prescribe, by Standing Order, that if these schemes for Provisional Orders are rejected as Provisional Orders, or, rather, if it is agreed that they are not to proceed by Provisional Order, the same notices with some additions may be accepted for the Private Bill which will then be introduced. In the second clause, it is left to the Chairmen of Committees, as before, to decide, according to the character or magnitude of the proposals put before the Secretary for Scotland, whether they may or may not proceed as Provisional Orders, and to those words are added others to further secure that nothing shall be done contrary to the ordinary policy of Parliament. The Chairmen of Committees will also decline to sanction proceeding by Provisional Order if the projects are said to raise any question of policy or principle. The power of dispensing with compliance with Standing Orders, which in the Bill of two years ago was to be vested in the Lord Ordinary of the Bills in the Court of Session in Scotland, is,

under this Bill, placed in the hands of the Chairmen of Committees of the two Houses of Parliament. The main difference in this Bill is in regard to the appointment of the panel from whom the Commissioners to conduct each particular inquiry are to be selected, and as regards the method of choosing the individual Commissioners for each inquiry. There are now to be two panels. There is to be one, called in the Bill the extra-Parliamentary panel, which is to be formed by the Chairmen of Committees of the two Houses, acting jointly with the Secretary for Scotland. They are to nominate twenty persons qualified by their experience of affairs to act as Commissioners under the Act, and the panel will be reformed at the expiry of every period of five years; but in addition to that panel there is to be what is called the Parliamentary panel—that is, that either House of Parliament may provide, by its own Standing Orders, for the formation of a panel of its own Members, from which the Commissioners for each inquiry may be selected. That panel is not limited in numbers. All that is said about it is that it is to be composed of Members of both Houses of Parliament, and that they are to be chosen by the Chairmen, or by the Committee of Selection under the Standing Orders. There is a provision in the clause that, if possible, when a particular tribunal is to be formed for trial of a scheme in a locality, Members of the Parliamentary panel will be, in the first instance, chosen; but, if it is not found possible to get them to act, then the extra-Parliamentary panel may be drawn upon so as to avoid failure in the inquiry. I am not at all sure that the changes which I have just indicated will be entirely satisfactory. In my opinion, for what it is worth, I still prefer that the first inquiry in the locality should be by the extra-Parliamentary panel, but it was perfectly clear, during the passage of this Bill through the other House of Parliament, that there was a very considerable reluctance on the part of Members of the House of Commons to part with their power, even to the small extent that was proposed. In my opinion, the better method would have been to have had the first inquiry in the locality by persons chosen as I have indicated, and to have left the final control of Parliament to be brought in by means of the Joint Committee, as was then proposed. But, as I

have said, there was very distinct reluctance on the part of the other House to see any power whatever pass away from it in this respect, or that in any respect the grasp of its Members upon Private Bill business should be loosened. To a certain extent this feeling was accentuated by an amount of professional opposition to the proposals contained in the Bill; and while I think the scheme, as it now appears in the Bill, is somewhat less elastic, and somewhat less satisfactory than that which was first proposed, it has been accepted by the Government, and we shall do our very best to make the scheme operate successfully. I think I have indicated sufficiently the changes made in regard to the formation of the panel, and to the method of choosing members for each inquiry. The other main changes in the Bill will be found in Clauses 7, 8, and 9. Clause 7 deals with the future course of schemes which have been the subject of local inquiry, and, in the case of those schemes, it is now proposed that all the Orders require the sanction of Parliament. The scheme of the Bill of 1897 was that if the Secretary for Scotland, after inquiry, or without an inquiry in cases where there was no opposition, issued an Order, it should have the effect of an Act of Parliament, unless a memorial was presented by the opponent praying that the Order should not become law without confirmation by Parliament. The scheme of the present Bill, as embodied in Clause 7, is that in no case shall an Order have any validity until confirmed by Parliament. The procedure in the course of those Bills which have not been the subject of local inquiry differs, and the form in those cases is regulated by Clause 7, the provision being that, if any alteration has been made since they were first presented, they shall be re-deposited with the Treasury, with the Clerk of the Parliaments, and any such other public Department as may be prescribed; and the Confirmation Bill shall be submitted to Parliament, and shall be deemed to have passed through all its stages up to and including the Committee stage, and shall be ordered to be considered in the other House of Parliament as if coming from a Committee. In the case of Bills which have been the subject of a local inquiry, or where the opposition has been withdrawn after inquiry held, or where, although there has

been no opposition, the Secretary for Scotland has ordered an inquiry, the procedure is to be by a Confirmation Bill, to be referred to a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament. In other words, Clause 9 of the present Bill corresponds to Clause 8 of the Bill of 1897, and, although in various particulars these clauses differ, they agree in this, that if a Confirmation Bill is opposed, it is to be sent to a Joint Committee of both Houses. I do not conceal from myself that this second inquiry was opposed in another place, and a very considerable amount of pressure was put upon the Government to abandon it, and to leave the procedure, even in the case of these Bills, to be, as I understand it, something the same as that which is now provided by Clause 7. I am bound to say that I think there would be serious disadvantages in that course. As I have indicated, I think the Bill, as it now stands, is less elastic and less satisfactory than the scheme which was placed before the other House of Parliament; but, whatever may be its disadvantages in that respect, I am of opinion that to make no provision at all for a second inquiry would be a somewhat serious innovation in Private Bill legislation, and I should view its adoption with great reluctance. There are, undoubtedly, cases in which things are done at the first inquiry which may affect the interests of persons who are absent. I think it is only right that there should be some appeal to provide for a reconsideration of matters in a case of that kind; and as Clauses 8 and 9 are intended to deal with those schemes in which there will be, in all probability, greater opposition, I am of opinion that if you make no provision for an inquiry by Committee under those circumstances, you will put a considerable premium upon, and give a considerable inducement to, the discussion of Private Bills and Provisional Orders either in this House or in another place. I think your Lordships will agree with me that anything which would have a tendency to bring about that result ought to be greatly deprecated. I also think that if you do away with the second inquiry, you will inevitably bring about this result, that the Chairmen of Committees will be much less willing to allow large and important schemes, which, however, are local in their character, to be dealt with in the locality, and will prefer to maintain

the system at present in existence, which provides for the inquiry first in one House and then in the other. On the other hand, I am bound to say that I think there is a little too much power placed in the hands of a single objector or of a large corporation, whether public or private, to object to schemes and bring about an increase of expense, and I am willing to consider any method whereby not such an absolute power of objection should be given to an individual objector as is the case at the present time. I know from private communications that the noble Earl opposite, the Earl of Camperdown, has been considering this matter, and therefore I have made this observation with a view of explaining to the House that, while I could not myself view with acceptance or favour the doing away with the second inquiry altogether, I am quite willing to consider proposals that may be made for the purpose of preventing such an absolute power being placed in the hands of those who, having had one inquiry, wish to repeat it over again before another tribunal. At the same time, when we are to some extent trying what is in the nature of an experiment, it would not be wise to do away altogether with the power of having a second inquiry. My Lords, I do not think I need explain further the provisions of the Bill. I have not gone over every verbal change which has been made because they are very numerous, but I think I have indicated with accuracy the main changes—the important changes—which have been made since your Lordships saw the Bill last, and I hope this attempt to cure what has undoubtedly been felt to be a great grievance in Scotland will be successful, and that, at any rate, your Lordships will to-night give a Second Reading to this Bill.

Moved, “That the Bill be now read 2^d.”

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: My Lords, I am sorry I cannot offer my congratulations to the noble Lord opposite on the probable sufficiency or efficiency of this Bill. In the first place, it seems to me that it deals with a very small fringe of the subject. Again and again has the present system of Private Bill legislation been brought before the two Houses of

Parliament, and in the other House, at any rate, strong expressions of opinion have been registered that some change is necessary in that system. I believe that a far more effectual system could be provided if it were proposed to deal with the whole of the Private Bill legislation of the three kingdoms, rather than merely with that portion which affects Scotland. So far as Scotland itself is concerned, I must protest that this Bill does not satisfy the just expectations of Scotland. We consider, and we have pressed that view, that in Scotland we should have the control of those matters which are dealt with by private legislation in our own hands, just as we have our own systems of law, education, Church government, and our own Establishment. We think that, in matters affected by Private Bill legislation, we, as Scotchmen, should have the power of dealing with them for ourselves according to Scotch ideas. So much for the general question. My noble friend has explained the various stages of incubation of this Bill, whose germ was to be found in the minority Report of the Committee for which my noble friend himself was responsible. That germ was cultivated in three sessions of Parliament—in a Select Committee of your Lordships' House, in a Select Committee of the House of Commons, and in the passage of the Bill through the other House this year. I think the Bill bears, on the face of it, a sign of the many hands that have been at work upon it. I think it is, at the best, but a “cobbled” Bill, and I would earnestly appeal to my noble friend to endeavour, during its passage through your Lordships' House, to remove from his handiwork some of the patches and long tacking stitches which are still to be found upon it. I think, in considering the provisions of this Bill, I may divide its proposals under two heads—its proposals as regards unopposed and opposed Bills. So far as unopposed schemes are concerned, I at once say that I think the Bill will prove effective, and may, indeed, facilitate the passage of such measures. At the same time I feel that the proposals in this Bill give guarantees, so far as unopposed measures are concerned, that they will receive sufficiently careful attention because they have to go first to the Scotch Office, then to the two Chairmen of Committees, and, finally, before the Provisional Order becomes law, even if

there is no local inquiry, they have to receive the sanction of Parliament. But there is one remark I would like to make on this head in passing, with regard to the position of matters which are at the present moment dealt with by means of Provisional Orders from the Scotch Office itself. I think that, so far as those schemes are concerned, there will be some difficulty, and probably some additional expense, because, as I understand the Bill, while Provisional Orders issuing from other Departments in the State do not come under this Bill, yet Provisional Orders issuing from the Scotch Office in all cases come under the Bill, and therefore the work of the Chairmen of Committees will be considerably increased.

***LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH :** I think the noble Lord is mistaken. Provisional Orders under the existing system will only come under Section 9, so far as they are applicable. The effect is that Provisional Orders, instead of having to go through a Committee of both Houses, will go to a Joint Committee if there is a Parliamentary inquiry.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH : As I read the Bill, and I have read it carefully, it seems to me that all Provisional Orders issuing from the Scotch Office will have to be dealt with under this Bill in future.

***LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH :** Only those which require confirmation by Committee; but this, of course, is a matter for the Committee stage.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH : I now come to the much more important question of opposed schemes under the Bill, and I venture to ask your Lordships' assent to the proposition that the procedure under the Bill will be more cumbrous, more lengthy, and more expensive than it is in the case of Bills that now have to pass the ordeal of both Houses. Let me cover, step by step, the procedure which opposed Bills will have to pass through. In the first place, you have the issue of notices, as in the case of Private Bills, and I was glad to hear from my noble friend that it was intended to do something to lessen the cost of the issue of notices. This is

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a question which I have already called your Lordships' attention to. I am sorry, however, that nothing to this effect appears in the Bill; I should have liked to see some provision inserted to ensure that something in this direction would be done. The application for the Order has to be lodged with the Scotch Office. It then goes before the Chairmen of Committees of both Houses, and they have to deal with it in a very serious manner. They have to give it their very careful consideration, because it becomes their duty to decide whether it is a proposal which ought to be dealt with by a Provisional Order or go through the ordinary formalities of a Private Bill. These stages must involve expense and fees in the two Houses.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES
(the Earl of MORLEY) : No.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH : I should have thought that if the officials of the two Houses, with their expert advisers, were required to examine into the proposals for legislation, they would require some remuneration for their pains; but, if the chairmen are able to give their services in this respect for nothing, so much the better for the promoters of these schemes. Let us suppose that the proposal is passed by the Chairmen of Committees as being one which may proceed under this Bill, but that there is opposition to it. It is then sent to a Commission which has to sit locally. That Commission, in the first instance, is to be composed of two Members from each House of Parliament. Supposing it were found impossible to secure two Members from each House, then the places on the Commission are to be filled by Gentlemen taken from the extra-Parliamentary panel. Either from one source or another you get your Commission formed, which has to go down and inquire into the subject on the spot. This local inquiry, I venture to say, will not be very much less expensive than the one which takes place at Westminster. I quite admit that the individual expenses of particular local witnesses will be less, but I think the number of those local witnesses will be greater, and you must also remember that in any important Bill you will have the promoters and opponents of it bringing down expert

witnesses from London, who will, in addition to their usual fees here, require to be paid extra fees for going into the country and giving evidence. Then it is supposed, I fancy, that a great deal of the work will be done for these commissions by members of the Edinburgh Parliament House ; but I do not think you will find those members willing to give their services at fees very much lower than the Members of the Parliamentary Bar here, and when you come to the cases of rich opponents and rich defendants you will have them bringing down to the local inquiries leaders of the Parliamentary Bar here to fight the cases for them ; and you must add to that the further expense of the commissioners. Let us suppose that the scheme is passed by the Parliamentary Commissioners, sitting locally. It comes back again to the Secretary for Scotland to introduce a Confirmation Bill into Parliament. The opposition again arises, and the Confirmation Bill is sent to a Parliamentary Committee consisting of two Members from each House, before whom the whole subject has to be gone into again from the very beginning. Who will tell me that the expense of these two inquiries put together will be less than the expense of the two inquiries held within the four walls of Westminster itself ? The Bill, if it passes the second inquiry, goes through the ordinary stages and becomes law. To put forward the scheme contained in this Bill as a method to simplify procedure and reduce expense will not command the assent of any thinking person. It may be said to me, "You profess that you are desirous of seeing a change. You have criticised the proposal ; have you anything to suggest in its place ?" I would suggest as a remedy the very thing which my noble friend has objected to—namely, that the second Parliamentary inquiry should be done away with altogether. I will give my reasons for that opinion. In the first place, you will have a Parliamentary inquiry sitting locally which will have heard all the evidence.

***LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH :** Not necessarily a Parliamentary inquiry locally ; it may have been by the extra-Parliamentary panel.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH : I am going to suggest presently that the extra-Parlia-

mentary panel should disappear altogether. You would probably have had a Parliamentary inquiry locally, and have had the question thoroughly gone into by the two Chairmen of Committees. You will have had the matter well sifted before them, and they will have decided that the scheme in question is not of first-class importance. I understand the whole object of the Bill is that all measures of first-class importance should be compelled to go through the ordinary procedure as it exists at the present moment.

***LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH :** That is not the definition of the Bill.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH : The Bill says that—

"If the Chairmen report, and it appears from such Report that either of the Chairmen is of opinion that the provisions or some provisions of the draft Order do not relate wholly or mainly to Scotland, or are of such a character or magnitude, or raise any such question of policy or principle, that they ought to be dealt with by Private Bill and not by Provisional Order, the Secretary for Scotland shall, without further inquiry, refuse to issue the Provisional Order, so far as the same is objected to by the Chairmen or Chairman."

If that does not mean that the Chairmen are to decide whether a Bill is of sufficient magnitude to require Parliamentary inquiry under the present system, I do not know what it means. It does mean, in my opinion, that they are only to pass those Bills for action under this proposal which seem to them not to be of first-class importance. That is a matter on which I should be glad to hear the views of the noble Earl the Chairman of Committees in this House. Opinion in Scotland is certainly very strongly in favour of the omission of this second inquiry, and I have to-day presented a petition from the Convention of Royal Burghs supporting the omission of Clause 9. I would remind my noble friend that on the Division in the House of Commons the number of Scotch Members who voted in favour of the omission of this clause was 36, and only nine against. I think that shows that there is a strong feeling in Scotland in favour of the omission of this second inquiry. The first inquiry should be a Parliamentary inquiry, and I would pro-

pose that Clause 4, which provides for the formation of an extra-Parliamentary panel, should also be deleted. It is said that it would be difficult to find Peers and Members of Parliament who would be prepared to serve on this local Commission. I do not agree that any difficulty would be experienced. Peers and Members of Parliament will, I believe, be quite ready to serve on the Commission, and probably more willing than they would be to sit here in this House. The sitting will probably be shorter to begin with. If an excuse is wanted for Members of either House declining to serve, it will be found in the fact that there is an extra-Parliamentary panel. I estimate that there will not be much necessity for many of these Commissions during the session. I have in my hand an interesting Return which was presented to the House of Commons last year. It is a Return giving all the details with regard to private Bills for the last seven years prior to August 31 1897. I find that, so far as Scotland is concerned, the average number of private Bills for the seven years was only twenty-two per annum. Of those twenty-two private Bills which received the Royal assent, only eleven came before the Committees as opposed Bills. I think it is only fair to assume that of the opposed Bills a considerable proportion would be schemes which would not be considered to come within the operation of this Act at all, and which would have to go through the ordinary form of procedure. If these figures may at all be relied upon as showing the amount of private Bill applications in the future, as regards Scotland, I should say that there will not be more than half a dozen proposals annually to form subjects for local inquiry, and probably two or three of these will be grouped together. I earnestly press careful consideration of the suggestion that the second inquiry at Westminster should be eliminated from the Bill. I want to say a word as to the proceedings before the Chairmen of Committees, because it does seem to me rather difficult to understand from the Bill exactly what those proceedings are to be. In the original Bill which my noble friend introduced into this House any one single opponent was allowed to raise opposition before the Chairmen of Committees. That provision has disappeared from this Bill, and the clause now stands as follows :

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"The Chairman of Committees of the House of Lords and the Chairman of Ways and Means in the House of Commons (in this Act referred to as the Chairmen), shall, if the two Houses of Parliament think fit so to order, determine all matters of practice and procedure which will enable them to take into consideration the draft Order, and to report thereon to the Secretary for Scotland. Provided that with a view to such report the Secretary for Scotland shall forthwith inform the Chairmen of any dissents from or objections to any of the provisions of the Order which have been stated in the prescribed manner and within the prescribed time."

What I want to know is, is it simply intended that the Chairmen shall consider the provisions of the scheme as they appear on paper? Are they merely to be required to take a *prima facie* view of the case, as presented on Paper, or are they to make themselves acquainted with the facts? I think this is a very important point. Judging by Clause 17, it seems as though it were intended that they should go beyond a *prima facie* view as presented on Paper, because Clause 17 says :

"If any objection to any draft Order is made to the Chairmen on the ground that the undertaking proposed to be authorised by the Order will destroy or injure any building or other object of historical interest, or will injuriously affect any natural scenery, the Chairmen shall consider such objection, and may, if they think fit, either report to the Secretary for Scotland that such objection raises an issue or issues which ought to be dealt with by private Bill and not by Provisional Order, or refer such objection to the Secretary for Scotland or to the Commissioners, as the case may be, who shall give to those by whom it is made a proper opportunity of being heard in support of it."

I do not see how the Chairmen are to form a satisfactory opinion on these points without having some evidence before them as to the particular facts of the case. It ought to be made clear what the duties of the Chairmen are to be. If it becomes necessary for them to take evidence, either on the subjects contained in Clause 17 or on other matters, then the stage before the Chairmen becomes a serious one, and one which will materially add to the expense. I am sorry I am not in a position to take a more active opposition to the Bill. I know it is useless to attempt to throw the Bill out, but I have felt compelled to register my opinion that if this

Bill is passed the procedure for opposed Bills will be found more complicated, more lengthy, and more expensive than the present system.

***THE EARL OF MORLEY:** My Lords, I propose in the observations which I shall make on this Bill to follow the example of my noble friend who introduced it, and not argue in any sense as to whether the Bill is expedient or desirable. I take it that that has already been settled in both Houses of Parliament. I shall, therefore, confine my remarks entirely to the details of the Bill, and to the points in which this Bill differs from the Bill of 1897. My noble friend opposite began by criticising the Bill on the grounds that it did not leave the whole of the procedure of Scotch Private Bill legislation to the Scotch people themselves. We are dealing now with legislation, and not with administration, and there is no legislative body in Scotland which could properly deal with the mass of business which has to be dealt with by Private Bill legislation. Therefore, that contention seems to me wholly futile. Your object is, as I understand it, that your legislation shall be confirmed at Westminster, but that the procedure should be rendered as cheap and as convenient as possible. This Bill differs in one most essential point from the Bill of 1897. That Bill gave Parliament practically no control over the private legislation of Scotland. I say that advisedly, because it did not provide for a Confirmation Bill. My noble friend opposite does not approve of confirming Bills, but my own opinion is that it would not be right for Parliament to give up the control which it at present has over Private Bill legislation. I would call attention of the House to the fact that you are dealing, not with administrative work, but with legislative work. Every Private Bill alters the public law in some particular, and in favour of some individual or company, and gives them powers and privileges which they have not got under the general law.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I only object to the second inquiry. I do not oppose a Confirming Bill.

***THE EARL OF MORLEY:** The House of Commons now agrees, and we have in this measure provided for a Confirmation Bill. I know my noble friend has a difficult task in endeavouring to reconcile the two opposite views—the one which would keep the control as far as possible in the hands of Parliament, and the other which would enable an outside tribunal to deal with this matter. It is an extremely difficult and complicated question, and, if I do not think this Bill has dealt with it in a wholly satisfactory manner, I do not wish to in any way accuse my noble friend or his advisers of want of ingenuity or ability in framing it. Practically, the Bill before us is an extension of the provisional order system with certain variations. Those variations are twofold. First, the local inquiry is to be conducted by a special tribunal of a rather curious and mixed character; and, secondly, when the Confirming Bill comes to Parliament it is to be dealt with in one inquiry by a single Committee instead of two, an economy which I am in favour of. This process does not apply to all the Bills which originate in Scotland; it only applies to those Bills which are taken by the Chairmen out of the purview of direct Parliamentary interference. You, therefore, have a certain number of those Bills dealt with by Provisional Orders. I confess that it seems to me that a much more simple method could have been adopted—namely, the extension very largely, if you think fit, of the power of the Secretary for Scotland to issue Provisional Orders in the ordinary way. Under this system you would have an inquiry by an official of the Scotch Office, instead of an expensive local inquiry. I believe that you would in that way greatly diminish the expenses on unopposed Bills, which I admit will be less under this Bill than under the present system. The great blot on the Bill now before your Lordships is that it is absolutely incapable of further extension. I should have preferred a system which would have been capable, if opportunities arose, of extension over the whole of the United Kingdom, and I believe the system of Provisional Orders, as at present worked, would be capable of that extension to a very large extent. I am anxious not to indulge in any carping criticisms of the Bill, but I think it is right for me to state to the House any difficulties which seem to be in the way of the working of

the machinery which it is proposed to set up, and I feel compelled to refer to the duties which will be placed on the Chairmen of Committees under this Bill. The Chairman of Committees occupies a somewhat peculiar position. He is only appointed for the session, and I have some doubts whether, when Parliament prorogues, he has any position at all. That may be a more or less academical question, but what is not at all an unimportant point is this—that he never acts as of himself. Every decision and every act which I take, as Chairman of Committees, is an act of the House, and one which the House can, at any moment, criticise and modify. Everything I do should be done as an officer of the House, and as the mouthpiece of the House. I quite admit, my Lords, that this Bill greatly improves the provisions which deal with the duties of the Chairman of Committees. In Clause 2, it says distinctly that the two Houses shall determine all matters of procedure and practice which will enable their chairmen to take into consideration the draft order, and I attach considerable importance to the fact that a copy of the report which shall be made by the chairmen is to be laid as soon as possible before both Houses of Parliament, because this brings the action of the chairmen at once within the knowledge of Parliament, and Parliament can then take any step to alter the decisions arrived at. There are other duties of a somewhat independent nature placed upon the chairmen of committees, and I hope your lordships will not for a moment think that I am at all desirous of shirking any duty, or of assuming any responsibility which the House may think fit to place upon me. Nothing is further from my wish, and I can assure my noble friend who is in charge of the Bill that it will be my desire as far as I possibly can to assist in enabling the Bill to work satisfactorily. It is not my wish to raise any difficulties in the way of carrying the Bill into effect. It is right, however, to point out that difficulties may arise. I think my best plan, if your Lordships will bear with me a short time, will be to trace an Order in its progress from the time the petition is lodged with the Secretary for Scotland until it finally passes through your Lordships' House. The first process is in Clause 1, which makes provision for the lodging of a petition for a Provisional

Order with the Secretary for Scotland. After this Bill has passed, no one in Scotland can, under any condition, come directly to Parliament for any purpose except in the case of Estate Bills. I should like to know whether my noble friend thinks it is necessary, having in view the fact that in Clause 1, sub-section 1, it is imperative that any public authority or persons desirous of obtaining Parliamentary powers shall proceed by presenting a petition, to retain, at the end of Clause 2, the fifth sub-section, which says that except under the provisions of this section it would not be lawful to apply to Parliament by Private Bill for powers which may be obtained by Provisional Order in terms of this Act. It seems to me that, having in view the earlier words of Clause 1, the words in the fifth section of Clause 2 are unnecessary. It may be a prejudice, or some superstitious fear of violating the Constitution, but it seems to me undesirable to place in a Statute words to the effect which I have just read. There is one objection, and one preliminary objection, for which I see no solution—namely, that every Order, whether it is clear that hereafter it must be turned into a Bill or not, must go through the preliminary stage of presentation to the Secretary for Scotland instead of going direct to Parliament. It, of course, originates in a difficulty which has been found when any scheme for private legislation has been in process of manufacture—the extreme difficulty of separating those schemes which ought to proceed by Provisional Order from those which ought to proceed by a Bill. But there is this fact, that where it is quite obvious that a scheme must be hereafter turned into an ordinary Parliamentary Bill, it must, all the same, in the first instance go through the Secretary for Scotland as a petition for a Provisional Order. Now comes the question of the second clause, which seems to me to raise a very important point. The second clause lays down that after the petition has been lodged, and the order drawn, it shall be sent to the two Chairmen of Committees to consider whether it is a proper subject for an Order, or whether it should go through the ordinary process of a private Bill in Parliament. I need not say that that is an extremely responsible, and, I think, a somewhat difficult task for the Chairmen to perform. I do not,

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however, say that it is an insuperable one. I take it that, as a rule, or at any rate when this scheme first comes into operation, the Chairmen of the two Houses will, in case of doubt, be inclined to give the benefit of the doubt to Private Bill procedure. But what are the cases which the Chairmen are to rule must go through the ordinary Private Bill process? They must be "of such a character or magnitude, or raise any such question of policy or principle, that they ought to be dealt with by Private Bill and not by Provisional Order." The words "such character or magnitude" are rather difficult to interpret, and I should be glad to hear the views of my noble friend in charge of the Bill on this subject. Take the case of large housing schemes, large drainage schemes, or large municipal schemes of any kind which would involve an expenditure of many millions of pounds. Would the Chairmen be bound, owing to the magnitude of those schemes, to decide that they should be dealt with by Private Bill? This is a difficult point, but one which will, I suppose, right itself in time. With regard to the words in the clause, "or raise any such question of policy or principle that they ought to be dealt with by Private Bill," I would point out that the chairmen have power to approve of a certain part going on by Provisional Order, and certain other parts being cut out and proceeding by Private Bill. Take questions of police, questions of local government, and sanitary matters. There may be a very important provision in one of the large Municipal Bills which deals with sanitary matters or with police matters in a manner very different from the general law. I take it that in that case the chairman would be bound to cut the clause that dealt differently with these matters than the ordinary law out of the Bill. I should like to ask whether promoters would, in that case, be entitled to bring in the clauses which the Chairmen had decided should not be proceeded with by Provisional Order as a separate Private Bill, because in that case you might have a large municipality with a Provisional Order under the Secretary for Scotland, and at the same time a private Bill being conducted in the same session. This is a difficult matter, but, as I have said, I do not think the problem is an insuperable one. I have no doubt, as time goes on, the custom will become stereotyped, and we shall get to know

what matters it is desirable shall proceed by Private Bill. My noble friend opposite asked what would be the character of the inquiry before the Chairman of Committees. That is difficult to say, and I can only give the noble Lord my impression, which is, that the inquiry will be merely a reading of the Bills, and, if there is any doubt as to certain points in them, information will be sent for. I can hardly think it will be necessary to hear witnesses. If it were, it would add another and very expensive stage to the Bill, and would give myself and my colleagues, at a time when we are extremely busy, far more than we could do. Unless there were special circumstances that required further explanation, I take it that it would be easy to ascertain in which direction the Bill should proceed. There is one point I should wish in this connection to call the attention of your Lordships to, and it is rather an important one, though one of detail. It is the question of time. I do not think it will be possible, under any conditions, to allow these petitions to be presented at any time during the year. It will not only be extremely inconvenient, but, what is far more important, it will not be safe or fair to those who may wish to oppose the Orders. At the present time it is well known by every one that Private Bills have to be deposited at a certain period of the year—the end of November. At that time solicitors and agents are on the look out for all schemes that are afloat. It would be extremely undesirable to keep these people on tenterhooks all the year round, and keep them constantly on the look-out for notices of Orders which might possibly escape their notice altogether. I think it is important that there should be some fixed period of the year when these petitions should be deposited with the Secretary for Scotland. There is another point. Supposing the Orders are, under the direction of the Chairman of Committees, to be turned into Bills. It follows that they must be deposited before the session begins, otherwise you will have wasted a session and also valuable labour. I would, therefore, suggest that it would be necessary to have the petitions for the Orders deposited some time in December, not very much, if at all, later than the Bills are now deposited, especially if, in accordance with this Bill, the Chairmen are, in addition to

the Bills, to have before them the dissents and objections to the provisions of the Order which may be sent to the Secretary for Scotland. I would suggest to my noble friend, for his consideration, whether it will not be necessary to make provision, in Clause 2, or in some other convenient clause, in the event of a dissolution or prorogation, for the continuance in office of the Chairmen of Committees till the beginning of the following session, otherwise there might be a period when important work would be going on with no one to attend to it. In the progress of the Order the next point is that the Order has to pass what we call the Standing Orders. The examiner is to certify that the Standing Orders have been complied with. I presume the examiner is to be one of the examiners of the House, and it does not seem to me that it will be very difficult, if the proper times of the year are taken, for him to perform this work, but I anticipate that he will have to journey to Edinburgh, or wherever it may be, to certify that the Standing Orders had been complied with. But the dispensation of the Standing Orders rests entirely with the two Chairmen, without any appeal from them. It is not the responsibility in this matter which I should be very much afraid of, because I take it that in most cases the Standing Orders may not be of a very important or crucial character, but I suppose it would be possible for an opponent to oppose before us the dispensation of the Standing Orders, and in that case, of course, it would be necessary for us to hear their agents as we do in the Standing Orders Committee. In the case of the two Chairmen differing as to the dispensation of the Standing Orders, there is no provision in the Bill by which that difficulty can be solved. Now comes the local inquiry. If the Chairmen consider that the Order ought to be dealt with in Parliament as a Private Bill, it goes its usual course; but if, on the other hand, it is sent back to the Secretary for Scotland to be dealt with as a Provisional Order, the first stage, after the certification of the Standing Orders having been complied with, is the local inquiry. I was somewhat surprised to hear my noble friend opposite speak so strongly as to the expense of local inquiries. I agree with him that it may even be much more expensive to take expert witnesses to the

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localities where the inquiry is to take place, than to bring the ordinary witnesses to London, but I would ask your Lordships to remember that the argument cuts at the root of all reforms of Private Bill Legislation, which have invariably tended in the direction of local inquiries. Whether the proposed inquiry is the best one we can conceive is for your Lordships to consider. As to the question of an extra Parliamentary panel, I differ from the noble Lord opposite, who stated that that part ought to have been omitted from the Bill. In my opinion, such a panel will be absolutely necessary, but in the nomination of the panel, although I am not unwilling to perform any duties the House may assign to me, I apprehend some difficulty, for in effect it will mean that I, knowing little or nothing of Scotland and Scotch affairs, will have to accept the nominees of the Secretary for Scotland. Again, I am not so sanguine as my noble friend that it will be an easy matter to find a sufficient number of Peers to perambulate Scotland to hold these local inquiries. If the inquiries are to take place during the session they will take Members from their duties at Westminster; if during the recess, your Lordships know the difficulty there will be in getting Peers to sit. Moreover, it does not seem to me to be the duty of Peers to travel about the country and inquire into matters of this kind. I have been able to impress upon noble Lords that it is their duty to attend Committees here, but I cannot say that I should look upon it as their duty to make these inquiries outside the walls of Westminster Palace; and I would suggest, for my noble friend's consideration, whether, if it is decided to maintain this Parliamentary panel, the Peers should not be chosen by the Committee of Selection. It does not seem to be part of my duty as Chairman of Committees to choose this panel, especially when we have a body in both Houses who are better fitted to perform it. I should like to call my noble friend's attention to the words in Clause 5:

"The Chairmen shall, with due regard to the character and magnitude of the provisions in the proposed Order or Orders, appoint four Commissioners for that purpose, and shall at the same time nominate one of the Commissioners as Chairman."

I do not see the least meaning in those words. Does it mean that I am to

graduate the capacity of the Committee to the importance of the Orders? I think, if that is all it means, it had better be left out, because it is clear that whether I or the Committee of Selection will have to choose the Commissioners it will be in all cases our duty to choose a suitable Committee. I therefore suggest that these words are perfectly without meaning and unnecessary. Even if my noble friend's surmises are correct, and we are able to get Peers and Members to take these long voyages into Scotland to inquire into these matters, the composition of the Committee is a matter of importance and causes no little anxiety. It is necessary, in addition to having the actual members of the Committee, to have a really experienced and competent Chairman. I am very much afraid, if you look at this House—of course, I cannot speak as to the House of Commons—and deduct Ministers and ex-Ministers, noble Lords who are too old to undertake these duties and noble Lords who are abroad, you have not a very large number of noble Lords left who have special ability to act in these matters, and they are generally men who are chairmen of their county councils or employed in public business of great importance, which would render it absolutely impossible for them to undertake the duties laid down in this Bill. I do not wish to be desponding about this Parliamentary panel, but so far as I can tell from my experience, I am not at all sanguine that you will, at any rate in this House, get very satisfactory results from this clause. Therefore, my Lords, I am strongly of opinion that the extra Parliamentary panel should be maintained. In fact, it appears to me that it would be almost better to have allowed the Bill to remain as it was when it left your Lordships' House in 1897. I should like also to know if my noble friend has considered whether these Committees are to be assisted in any way by counsel or clerks of experience. Of course, Committees in your Lordships' House have constantly the opportunity, if they so desire—which is not often—of consulting my own counsel, and they have experienced clerks who can at once instruct them and give them any information they require. Though this is rather a question for the General Orders, I throw it out for the noble Lords' consideration, and I would suggest the desirability of appoint-

ing some standing counsel. Now we come to the fourth stage of the Order, where it blossoms into a Confirmation Bill. If unopposed it shall be deemed to have passed through all its stages up to and including Committee, and shall be ordered to be considered as if reported from a Committee. There is no Committee stage in the House, and therefore, if any Amendments are made, they must be inserted when the Bill is reported to the House. As I understand, in the case of an opposed Bill, the Bill will go through all its stages and will be referred to a Joint Committee. I think this will save a great deal of expense and time, and be satisfactory. I do not, however, agree with my noble friend opposite that there is no cause for a second inquiry. In the first place, we are not quite certain how the tribunal which makes the first inquiry will work out; and I would suggest that during a certain number of years, while the Act is in the experimental stage, it is necessary, in order to avoid injustice, that there should be a Court of Appeal, or rather a Court of Rehearing from the local inquiry; and I therefore am decidedly in favour of the proposal to refer the Confirmation Bill, in the case of opposition, to a Joint Committee of both Houses. I think the second inquiry is rendered necessary because Amendments and agreed clauses may be introduced at the first inquiry which may prejudicially affect the interests of third parties who may not have been injuriously affected by the Order as originally framed. My noble friend said one reason why the second inquiry would be unnecessary would be that the Bill would have been not only inquired into locally, but would have been carefully read by the Chairmen of Committees. That is quite true. But your Lordships must remember that the Chairmen have no opportunity of hearing any evidence. They have no means of knowing whether anyone is injured, or whether any interest is prejudiced by anything in the Bill. Though the Bills may not be many, and although they may be small, surely that is no reason for saying that in small Bills an injustice should be possible. I think there is very great danger, if you have no such Committee as that, of having questions relating to Private Bills constantly raised in the House, and I cannot possibly conceive of a worse tribunal for deciding questions

of this kind than the House, which must, of necessity, act on *ex parte* statements and without having the evidence before them. On this ground, I am decidedly in favour of the second inquiry, as provided in the Bill. I would ask my noble friend whether, in Clause 8, it might not be desirable, even if there had been no opposition and no inquiry held, that there should be some means given of enabling an opponent or supporter of a Bill, who is dissatisfied with the decision of the Secretary for Scotland, to appeal to Parliament, because it might happen that the Secretary for Scotland had introduced important Amendments, or made the granting of the petition for the Order conditional upon the promoters complying with certain conditions which might have a very evil effect on either the opponents or promoters. I cannot find in the Bill that the Secretary for Scotland has any power to refuse a petition, neither can I find that he has power to modify the Order except on the recommendation of the Chairmen or certain public bodies. I cannot help thinking that I am wrong in this matter, but I have read the Bill carefully and cannot find that any powers are given to the Secretary for Scotland in this direction.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH :
They are in Clause 2.

*THE EARL OF MORLEY: In summing up I should like to refer to the duties of the Chairmen. In the first place, they will have to read petitions and see if the Order is to be proceeded with as an Order or as a Bill. That means rather careful reading, because they may, as I have said, reject part of a Bill. We shall have to read the Orders without the advantage of seeing the agents as we do at present. It will be somewhat difficult to avoid refusing to allow the insertion in an Order of any matters that are against general legislation. So far as that goes, it will almost inevitably result in the Chairmen having to be more particular in reading these Orders than they are at present. The second point is that they are, if they think fit, to dispense with the Standing Orders if they are found not to be complied with; and, thirdly, they are to choose the extra Parliamentary panel, and, in connection with the Secretary for Scotland, the Commission which is to try

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this case. Then, when the Orders come into your Lordships' House, they are again to carefully read them, with the modifications introduced, and make recommendation to the Secretary for Scotland. I am afraid this will add considerably to the work, because we shall have to read not only all the Bills as they come in, but we shall have to report. Moreover, we shall not have the same powers which we now possess of discussing the Bills with promoters. I was rather staggered, on reading Clause 17, to find that I was the guardian of the buildings of historic interest and the picturesque beauties of the Highlands, and I am sure this duty would be much better left to my noble friend the Secretary for Scotland. I do not see how it is possible for the Chairmen of Committees to decide a question of this kind, which is entirely one of taste and evidence. I would suggest that the Secretary for Scotland should be substituted for the Chairmen. Clause 16 saves the present power of making Provisional Orders whether by the Secretary for Scotland or the Board of Trade. As I read the clause, the present powers of the Secretary for Scotland to make Provisional Orders remain exactly the same, except that the Bills, when they come to Parliament, shall be referred to a Joint Committee instead of having to go through two Committees. Sub-section 2 of this clause saves the powers of the Board of Trade, but here let me point out an anomaly. The Board of Trade have now power to give Orders for harbours up to £100,000. Under this Bill, however, the Secretary for Scotland would be able to frame an Order for a harbour of any size he liked, providing the Chairmen did not say it was big enough to go to Parliament. It certainly seems an anomaly that the Board of Trade, who are experts on this subject and the harbour authority for the country, should be restricted in this particular manner, while the Secretary for Scotland, who has no expert advisers, would have authority to give an Order for a harbour costing half a million or a million of money. That is a point which requires looking into. I must crave your Lordships' pardon for having mentioned so many matters which are more fitting for Committee, but I have called attention to them on the Second Reading because I have no right to address your Lordships when the House is in Committee. I have

in my observations endeavoured to avoid unnecessary criticism, and I assure your Lordships that, although I think they will be responsible, and in some cases very difficult, I shall be most anxious to perform those duties which the House chooses to put upon me under this Bill. I shall be only too glad to co-operate with my noble friend in endeavouring to render the operation of the Bill satisfactory. I see some difficulties in the way of the working of this new scheme of Private Bill procedure; but on the whole, with the exception of the panel, about which I am in doubt, I think the general scope of the Bill is more satisfactory than the Bill which was before your Lordships' House in 1897.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: After the Debate which has taken place on this Bill, and more particularly after the full and exhaustive examination of the Bill by the Chairman of Committees, it is not necessary for me to offer more than a few observations to your Lordships at the present stage on this subject; but there is one point I wish to bring under the consideration of the House. This is a Bill on which it is extremely desirable that we should have the assistance and advice of the noble Earl the Chairman of Committees, who has better means than we have of forming a judgment upon the merits and demerits of the Bill. We shall be deprived of the advice and assistance of the noble Earl if he is in the chair during the Committee stage, and, therefore, I hope some means will be found whereby the noble Earl will be in a position to give the House the benefit of his help upon the details of the Bill, and also to move Amendments in the direction which he has foreshadowed. I am not sufficiently acquainted with the forms of your Lordships' House to give an opinion on this matter with absolute certainty; but I think, if we were to take the Committee stage *pro forma*, and discuss the Amendments on Report, we should be able to obtain the assistance of the noble Lord, and that would be a very great benefit to the consideration of the Bill by the House. I should like to know the opinion of the noble Lord in charge of the Bill in regard to this proposal. If he consents to it, I will move the necessary motion. Like the noble Lord the Chairman of Committees, and others who have

spoken, I greatly prefer the Bill in its present shape to the shape in which it was presented to us on a former occasion. I think it is absolutely necessary, for the protection of petitioners and objectors, that this House should retain in its own hands the control of all legislation which has reference to property; and it seems to me, also, that it must necessarily be wrong and unfair to the official himself to impose upon the holder of a political office the duty of dealing with legislative details which must expose him to a great deal of solicitation and trouble. This Bill avoids that difficulty. The fact that the Secretary for Scotland and the Chairmen of Committees are placed in a foremost position with regard to this matter, gives the House and the country considerable security that matters will be dealt with under proper control, and in a proper manner. With regard to the panel, I rather agree with my noble friend (Lord Tweedmouth) that there will not be such difficulties as is supposed in obtaining the panel. I think the number of Bills will not be great, and I venture to hope that you will find sufficient Peers and sufficient Members of the other House who will be willing to make the necessary exertions, and go to Scotland when required; but there is a special mention in the Bill of Scotch Members of Parliament. It is provided that nothing is to disqualify Scotch Members from sitting on such Commissions. I think that is a very proper provision, but I hope there is no insinuation in it that Scotch Members are to be preferred for this purpose. In dealing with Private Bills, I do not know whether by accident or design, the Chairman and the Committee of Selection, in choosing their Committees, take care to seldom place on those Committees Peers who are connected with that portion of the kingdom to which the question to be discussed relates. I think, as a general rule, that is a wise course to take; and if there is anything in these words which is likely to indicate that Scotch Members are to be preferred in the consideration of Scotch questions, I should enter a strong protest against it. I shall only refer to one other matter, namely, the second inquiry. As the Bill stands, after an Order has been considered locally by a Commission it returns to Parliament, and a Confirmation Bill is to be laid on the Table. I am, of course, speaking of the case of an opposed Order. If a peti-

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tion is presented, the Bill, subject to the Standing Orders, is to be referred to a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament. That gives an opponent the absolute power to insist upon a separate inquiry by a Joint Committee of both Houses. Having been defeated before the Commission, he has a right to demand a Joint Committee of the two Houses of Parliament. I cannot say with my noble friend (Lord Tweedmouth) that I should be willing to do away with that second inquiry altogether—I think it would be a great mistake to do so, for the reasons which were given by the noble Lord the Chairman of Committees, if for no other reason; but, at the same time, I think we are going a little too far in giving an opponent, who presumably has been defeated at the first inquiry, the right to insist on a second inquiry by a Joint Committee of both Houses. It may be pointed out that at the present time, under a Provisional Order, everyone interested has a right to ask for a Committee in either House of Parliament, but this is not quite the same as the case of an ordinary Provisional Order. This matter will have been considered by the Chairmen and the Secretary for Scotland, and they will have arrived at the decision that it is a matter which is not so important as to require to be dealt with by a Bill, and have authorised an inquiry by Provisional Order. That inquiry will have taken place, and it seems to me a little too strong to give an opponent the power to insist, at his own free will, that there shall be a second inquiry by a Joint Committee of the two Houses. A solution has occurred to me, and it seems a very simple one. It is, that when this petition is presented, the procedure should not be left, as it is now, to the opponent himself, but that the House should decide, after seeing the petition, whether it was desirable to further inquire into the allegations of that petition, and if they should decide that there were *prima facie* reasons for further inquiries, or if Amendments had been introduced after the first inquiry, there should be a second inquiry. I shall submit an Amendment to this effect for the consideration of the House at a later stage. Clause 17 did not belong to those who framed the Bill, but was the work of Mr. Bryce, a private Member in the other House, and he is responsible for

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the form which it at present takes. I think a very natural and proper suggestion might be that this question should be referred, with other questions relating to the Order under consideration, to the Commission appointed to inquire into the other matters.

THE MARQUESS OF LOTHIAN: My Lords, I only rise to say that I strongly concur in the views expressed by my noble friend opposite as to the extreme desirability of the Chairman of Committees being in a position to discuss this Bill, and I hope some means will be found for giving effect to this suggestion. However, if the proposal of the noble Earl is adopted, that the Committee stage should be taken *pro forma*, and the Amendments moved on Report, no noble Lord—not even the noble Lord in charge of the Bill—will be able to speak more than once, which will be most undesirable. The only way out of the difficulty would be to resolve that the noble Lord in charge of the Bill should be allowed to speak as often as he liked on Report, the same as in Committee.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: The noble Lord opposite (Lord Tweedmouth) said that Scotchmen should be allowed to decide these matters entirely amongst themselves, but he did not say distinctly what sort of substitute he would place in the Bill to take the place of the present provision. That may be some new form of Home Rule which we may yet have to have explained to us. I will make him this offer, that if he will move to reject Clause 17 at the next stage I do not think I shall put any particular obstacle in his way. With regard to the future stages of this Bill, I have consulted my noble friend, the Chairman of Committees, since he has spoken, and I think I am right in saying that most of the objections which my noble friend has taken are points of detail and of drafting. I will confer with him before the Committee stage is taken, and I think I shall be able to meet his views on many of the points. The Committee stage will be taken on Tuesday and the Report on Thursday. By that time the noble Earl will be out of the Chair, and any of the points he has raised which have not been dealt with in

Committee can be taken up on that occasion.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: I am sure everyone must desire to have the assistance of the noble Lord, the Chairman of Committees, who is able to give us the soundest advice in regard to this Bill. The same difficulty which has been present in the mind of the noble Earl occurred to me, and it has been suggested to me that there is no Standing Order of the House which will prevent the Chairman of Committees from leaving the Chair, and standing by the Table to address the Committee in a similar way to that adopted by the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack when he addresses the House. If that is possible, I think it will solve a difficulty which is a very serious one.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of HALSBURY): I am not aware of any reason why the Chairman of Committees should not take part in Debate and express his opinion. If there is no precedent for it, I think it will be most convenient that we should make one.

On Question—agreed to.

Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday next.

ISLE OF MAN (CUSTOMS) BILL.

Brought from the Commons, and read 1^a; and to be printed; and to be read 2^a on Monday next.—(The Marquess of Salisbury.) (No. 184.)

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a on Monday next (The Lord Privy Seal [V. Cross]). (No. 183.)

QUESTIONS.

OUTRAGES BY SOLDIERS IN INDIA.

***LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY:** My Lords, I rise to ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they intend to take to prevent outrages by soldiers in

India and the Colonies, such as that which caused the death of Mr. Talwattee; and to ask the Under Secretary for India whether, on the 14th February last, the India Office was entirely ignorant of the following cases:—

1898.

January 16.—Poona, Arjuna shot by Gunner W. E. Piper.—*Times of India*.

February 27.—Poona, Private McQuillan, Royal Irish Rifles, cut the throat of a dooly bearer. — *Champion*.

March 23.—Satara, Mr. Rowecroft, a military officer, slapped on the face for insufficient salutation Mr. Sohoni, first assistant master Satara High School.—*Mahratta*.

April 10.—Poona, two soldiers, Durham Light Infantry, drove through the cantonment firing an air gun, hit a tailor and a woman and a man.—*Times of India*.

April 24.—Allahabad, H. L. C. Killick, East Surrey Regiment, out shooting peafowl with another, with Lee-Metford rifles and bullets. Killick cut Janak Singh's arm with a hunting knife, he bled to death.—*Pioneer*.

May 7.—Karachi, five soldiers committed to sessions for wounding a policeman on duty.—*Jagat Samachar*.

June 5.—Kussowlee, two European soldiers demanded liquor of a carter, on refusal threw cart, bullocks, and whiskey down the cliff.—*Champion*.

October 2. — Nasirabad, a punkah coolie attached to sergeants' mess of Royal Fusiliers, thrown into a well by two soldiers, September 25.—*Champion*.

1899.

January 28.—Punjab, Asghar Aly, magistrate and civil servant, assaulted on Punjab Railway, December 31, 1898, by four commissioned officers. — *Moslem Chronicle*.

and to ask if the Indian Government will amend or remodel the Indian Government Resolution No. 4625, of

August 31, 1897, and the Bombay Government Resolution No. 1507, Judicial Department, of March 2nd, 1899. I had hoped, my Lords, and I still hope, to be able to speak to this notice without uttering anything which could give any offence, and I had every reason to believe that I should receive a very satisfactory reply, for I was indebted to the noble Earl for an introduction to one of the military authorities at the India Office, and everything promised well for a reply which would have effaced the ill-effects of the reply given in this House in February last; and one which would encourage the efforts now made in India to diminish the evils complained of. But since Friday last a disturbing element has intervened, the Parliamentary and Permanent Under Secretaries have become for me Purdeh-Nisheen, and have retired into their zenanas; and I am obliged to infer that the Secretary of State is the disturbing cause, and that he has taken offence at the list of outrages on the notice Paper, coming as it does shortly after he had made a statement similar to that made in this House in February last. Should the reply to what I am going to say be less satisfactory than I expected, or than the inhabitants of India have a right to expect, I must point out how the saddle should be put upon the right horse, and that is the Secretary of State for India. After this caveat I can proceed as I originally intended. In again bringing this subject before the House, my first duty is to explain, not for your Lordships, but for those outside the House, and especially for the Press in India, that the noble Earl, the Under-Secretary for India, is not to be blamed or made responsible for the brevity or curtness of the replies with which he is furnished by the India Office. I next desire to correct a statement which I made when I spoke in February last. I have received a letter saying that I had been misinformed, and that O'Hara, the Dum-Dum murderer, was not the same O'Hara as the one who was hung for shooting a sergeant and a soldier. This point has not much importance except for the sake of accuracy. If there were two O'Haras it destroys the point of what I said as to the escape from punishment of the Dum-Dum O'Hara, but it tells in favour of the military administration that the Dum-Dum O'Hara did not succeed in re-entering the Army

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after he had been dismissed from it. On the other hand, if there were two O'Haras, the military authorities have had two murderers to answer for instead of one. With regard to the list of outrages by soldiers in the course of last year I have been careful to word the notice so as not in any way to let it appear that the noble Earl was aware of any of these cases. I have put them down, because they must show that I am not complaining of an imaginary evil, and because even quite recently the Secretary of State for India seemed to believe that these cases were very rare. I am not disposed either to blame the India Office on account of its ignorance of these cases. I did not know of them all myself until a list was sent to me with newspaper extracts. The cases are spread over several newspapers, some of which are not received at the India Office; and I can exonerate the India Office at the cost of another Department. In well-conducted public offices, like the Foreign Office and Local Government, the clerks examine carefully the minutes of both Houses, and also the newspapers, and inform the heads of Departments and the Under Secretaries of anything that concerns their office. But I found on June 12th that a letter published in the *Morning Post* on the 7th had not yet attracted the attention of the Colonial Office, although it was headed, "Northern Railway, Ceylon." With regard to this list of cases the Barrackpore case in May, and that of the boy shot by Private Knight in August, have been omitted, as they have already been discussed in this House. These cases speak for themselves. I shall not take up the time by mentioning how many were acquitted or how few convicted. With reference to the third case, I will, with the leave of the House, read an extract from *India*, of April 21 this year :—

"Professor Augustus de Morgan had superintended the reprinting of a famous 'Treatise on Problems of Maxima and Minima solved by Algebra,' by Ramchandra, late teacher of science, Delhi College, a volume expressly stated to be reprinted by order of the honourable Court of Directors of the East India Company, for circulation in Europe and India, in acknowledgment of the merit of the author, and in testimony of the sense entertained of the importance of independent speculation as an instrument of national progress in India. De Morgan wrote to the Dean of Ely, about forty years ago, a

letter (reprinted in *India* of December 23rd last): 'Had I been publishing independently of Government, I should perhaps have added what Ramchandra meant me to add—as I judge by his mode of telling it—that he had been beaten in the public road by a man in a British uniform, for not making a salaam as he passed. We talk a great deal about the ways and means of preserving India; but few know that this treatment of educated and civilised natives is always going on. We are constantly sending out to India a parcel of boobies who have no idea of the people they have to govern, and who will each of them make a few hundred malcontents among educated men who are revered by the mass of the people.'

I have not yet read of any redress having been offered to Mr. Asghar Aly, who was assaulted, and his eyes blackened, because he was going to a stationmaster to complain of the treatment he had met with from four commissioned officers, whose rank makes this a worse case than the others. I hope that the Under Secretary for India will have some satisfactory information to give on this point. In this year six outrages, three of them by soldiers, have taken place between March 23rd and April 9th, reported by the following papers:—

Amrita Bazar Patrika, March 23rd.—“Toll Manager of Jhelum, telegraphed:—‘Abused, assaulted, and ears pulled out by police inspector on demanding toll.’”

India, March 24th.—“Private Joyce, armed with a razor, cut at every native, four wounded.”

India, March 24th.—“Mr. J. N. Ross, in a dispute as to land, killed a native, one of the two whom he had arrested.”

Times of India, April 4th. — “Rangoon outrage on Church Parade by West Kent soldiers.”

Times of India, April 5.—“Gunner Love, separated from his two soldier friends, attempted rape of a village girl (by another report actually committed it); a scuffle ensued, the soldier's gun went off, and a man was killed.”

Amrita Bazar Patrika, April 9th.—“Mr. Cunning, manager of a tea estate, gave a cooly boy of twelve or thirteen a severe beating, from which he died.”

Some newspaper, I cannot now remember or ascertain which, asked why I have not referred to outrages by civilians. The reason is that they are fewer, and that they do not cause the same ill will against the Government as those committed by soldiers. An Indian paper, however, reminds civilians that there is a Bengal Regulation X. of

1804, and Section 2 of XX. of 1825, under which civilians might be tried by court-martial. Those who ask for measures of prevention may fairly be expected to have some suggestions to make. In February last I suggested trying soldiers by court-martial instead of by juries, and this has been partly carried out by a military Order, dated Naini Tal, April 12th, 1899, No. 224, for cases of soldiers infringing rules relating to shooting passes. With regard to court martials, everything depends upon the colonels and other regimental officers being convinced that the Government is in earnest. If the telegram from Allahabad, published last Friday, July 21st, be correct, that conviction had been borne into the minds of the officers, as a severe sentence was passed. On the other hand, at Rangoon, as has been stated in some newspapers, a soldier was about to make a statement, but was stopped by a captain. I hope the Under Secretary will be able to give the House some information as to this point, and as to the progress of this inquiry by General Protheroe. The Government can show that it is in earnest by letting it be known that wherever a court martial trifles with justice, or acquits against the evidence, on the first occasion the colonel of that regiment will be put on half pay; and, on the next similar occurrence, the colonel will be dismissed the Service. In cases such as the Rangoon outrage, or the Kandy murder, confinement of the regiment to barracks and the barrack yard, and putting the officers under arrest until evidence was forthcoming, might secure the desired result. The next suggestion I would make is founded upon what took place when Mr. Talwattee was murdered, namely, that in future soldiers off duty, going or coming back from any games, and passing through a native quarter, should always be accompanied by a subaltern commissioned officer, and not, as in Mr. Talwattee's case, by a corporal only, who would be no restraint upon them. A third suggestion was impressed upon me by a friend, an ex-Bengal civilian, that the soldiers are greatly over fed during the hot season, and that if supplied with a less inflammatory diet outrages would be fewer. I have been reminded of what I had forgotten, that one of Mr. Kipling's stories in “Soldiers Three” says exactly the same thing; in it he says that a regiment sometimes gets hysterical like

a girls' school. This is a reform which can be easily carried out by the regimental officers, and I have reason to believe that it has been considered by the military authorities. The fourth suggestion is contained in the notice. I will read to the House the Bombay Government Resolution mentioned in it, and your Lordships will be able to judge whether the warnings to villagers not to molest soldiers are not rather of a wolf and the lamb description. No doubt the soldiers have some warning in the rules issued to them, which I have already referred to, breaches of which are to be tried by court martial, but at present the Government Resolution seems one-sided. It is as follows :—

"BOMBAY GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION.

"No. 1,507.

"Judicial Department,

"2nd March, 1899.

"District magistrates should cause it to be made known generally to villagers that British soldiers are permitted to go out shooting game in the district, but Government have issued instructions, so that any injury to the person or property of the inhabitants may be prevented. Should any person be aggrieved by the conduct of soldiers who may be out shooting, their proper course is to make a complaint to the magistrate empowered to receive it. They are not permitted to take the law into their own hands, or to molest or threaten soldiers who are not committing any offence, but are out shooting in accordance with the permission given to them. The village officers in each village should further be warned that they will be held responsible that these instructions are known and observed in the village.

"(Signed) G. G. H. FAWCETT,

"Under Secretary
to Government."

I would now point out that there is great risk of accidents, if soldiers are allowed to shoot with Lee-Metford rifles; many parts of India are level plains, and more populous than this country. Shot guns ought to be kept for the good conduct soldiers allowed to shoot, to prevent accidents. A short time ago I met a Christian Bengalee in the house of a dignitary of the Church; he was not a convert but the son of a convert, and of a well-known Bengali family. I asked him what remedy he could suggest for these military outrages. He said: "Raise the moral tone of the soldiers." I replied that you must first raise the moral tone of the officers; and my Bengal civilian friend says, "You must raise the moral tone of the race." It is, perhaps, more the conceit that wants lower-

ing, than the moral tone raising; a great country or a great people does not require a Tyrtæus. Oliver Goldsmith began it, and Mr. Rudyard Kipling has excelled in that line. I admire Mr. Kipling's writings very much, and though not acquainted with him, in order not to offend him, I shall use no words of my own, but quote a paragraph from the *Bombay Indian Spectator* criticising his last utterance:

"Egotism sometimes takes the form of excessive laudation of one's own race, and nationality, called by whatever name, the underlying feeling is the same—namely, one of supreme self-complacency. Mr. Rudyard Kipling's latest poem, 'The White Man's Burden,' is one of the most glaring instances of such egotism. It would seem, from this poem, that the white man has been carrying the burden of the whole universe on his shoulders at considerable self-sacrifice and discomfort to himself, and all for the benefit of the 'half devil, half child,' whom he has kindly brought under subjection. In a large sense the greatest burden-bearers in the world to-day are not the white men. It is the 'half devils, half children,' whose skins are browned or blackened by the sun that carry the twin artillery of the white man—his gin and his gun—wherewith he 'civilises' or shoots them down, according as they fall in with his ways or rebel against them."

It is no use preaching to alter the present feeling of the troops, and the best thing the Indian Government could do would be to offer Mr. Rudyard Kipling publication at their own expense, and a large reward for a novel which should tone down the song of the white man's burden. If Mr. Kipling should decline the task, the Indian Government has another and a better string to its bow, and might ask Mr. Thorburn to enter the lists, and show how Mr. Kipling's song lured on the Americans into a bog, and how almost every step taken by the United States since the beginning of their war with Spain has been dogged by retribution. Mr. Thorburn's recent novel, "Transgression," is as good as any other of the many good Indian novels. He is the Bengal civilian who got into a scrape at Simla last winter for taking at their word those who invited discussion on the Afridi campaign. As for the part of the question that concerns the colonies, Ceylon appears to be the only one requiring attention in this respect, for I have not heard of any military outrages in the Straits Settlements or in Hong Kong, probably because the Malays and the Chinese are better able to defend

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themselves. I hope that the Colonial Office will be ready to adopt in Ceylon whatsoever measures may be adopted by the Indian Government. I also hope that the Under Secretary for the Colonies will now be able to explain how it is that a clerk of the Magistrates' Court could be murdered in the town of Kandy by daylight, in the presence of his wife and sister-in-law and of witnesses, European and Singhalese ; and why a soldier named Conolly, who has been accused, was allowed to leave Ceylon without being confronted with persons who might have recognised him and disproved his alibi. I hope that my noble friend, the Under Secretary for India, will recognise and admit that I have used very dispassionate, indeed colourless language, and have simply placed facts before the House. This I have been able to do, because I know that the Viceroy is bent upon preventing these outrages, and that some of the best officials in the India Office are now thoroughly awake to the necessity of action, and that apathy has been dispelled by the Sunday mid-day performances at Rangoon.

***THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (THE EARL OF ONSLOW):** My Lords, the noble Lord has placed on the Notice Paper a very long list of outrages alleged to have been committed by soldiers in India upon natives of that country, but the noble Lord has himself admitted that he has not made careful inquiry as to the acquittals and convictions in these cases. It would be an easy matter to compile a long list of cases drawn from newspaper reports of crimes committed by those of any profession among Her Majesty's subjects, drawn from the same class as soldiers, and I do not think the noble Lord has convinced your Lordships that soldiers in India are guilty of more crimes than the same class elsewhere, or any section drawn from the same class of the population. On the contrary, if the noble Lord will examine the returns which are laid on the Table of both Houses of Parliament he will find that since 1878 the proportion of court-martial on soldiers for offences has been very steadily decreasing. In 1878 there were 114 at home and fifty-six abroad, while in 1897 the figures were only fifty-four at home and thirty-four abroad. I think your Lordships would agree that

the conduct of Her Majesty's troops has been steadily improving and not deteriorating. With regard to the cases quoted by the noble Lord, two of them have been brought officially to the notice of the Secretary of State, and he has replied to questions about them in another place. As to shooting passes, they are most carefully guarded. Orders are only issued to men of extremely good character, and every precaution is taken to prevent any collision with the natives, and I can only say that all that is possible is done to prevent any outrages of the kind referred to by the noble Lord. They are extremely cowardly, and are repudiated by the men's comrades in the Army. There is no evidence that they are on the increase, though there may be isolated cases of violence. The Secretary of State at this moment is taking precautions to have himself informed of all cases which are brought before the Civil Courts against soldiers of the British Army. I will not go at length into the proposals which the noble Lord made as to remedying what he complains of ; I leave that to the Secretary for War. It will be for him to say whether he could justify such an increase in the number of officers as would be necessitated if a subaltern was in each case to accompany the men when they go through a native village. As to the suggestion that the British soldier should be given peas and porridge instead of beef and beer, the noble Marquess will be able to tell the House what effect that would have on recruiting for the Army.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: My Lords, I was glad to hear from the Under Secretary, what I felt quite sure would be the case, that not only is there no reason to apprehend that there is a serious increase of crime committed by soldiers in the Army, but that in point of fact those crimes are tending to decrease ; and, although there may possibly have been some instances, some particular cases, which everyone will greatly deplore, still there is no reason to believe or suggest that there is a general deterioration among our soldiers in India. It would be most unfortunate that such an erroneous impression should get abroad. No doubt circumstances may have occurred lately which required the attention of the Government. That attention I am sure—indeed, we have heard

that it is so from the Under Secretary—will be given to the subject, and if it is found that there is any necessity for their interference, I must say I feel confident the Government will take any steps that may be necessary for the protection of the natives. I cannot, however, believe that the conduct of the soldiers in India is such as to give rise to any general apprehension of deterioration. On the contrary, I believe that their conduct deserves approbation.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The Marquess of LANSDOWNE): My Lords, I rise merely to express my concurrence in what has been said by the noble Earl. We must all regard with the utmost reprobation acts of ill-usage perpetrated by Europeans, whether soldiers or civilians, upon the natives of India. It is for civilians a disgrace to the nation to which they belong; but when these acts are perpetrated by soldiers, they not only bring disgrace upon their country and countrymen, but upon the honourable profession of which they are members. I am glad to concur with what has been said by the Under-Secretary as to the improvement which has taken place in the conduct of our soldiers in this respect. I believe that at this moment acts which not many years ago—I do not speak of crimes or outrages, but acts of perhaps rough usage and brutality—would have been regarded as comparatively venial are now regarded as well by the military as by the civil community as deserving the utmost abhorrence and reprobation. As I believe that no pains are spared by the military authorities and the commanding officers to prevent these occurrences, I wish to join the protest of the noble Earl against such reports as those which the noble Lord has placed upon the Paper being regarded as authentic proof of the conduct of the troops in India. He has not told us as to these cases whether there were any legal proceedings, or whether, if there were, any convictions followed. I, for one, should certainly want to know a great deal more about these cases before I should be inclined to accept them as being authentic. My impression is that the amount of crime committed by British soldiers in India is steadily diminishing. Courts-martial are diminishing; and, in particular, the offence of drunkenness—so closely connected, I am afraid, with military crime—is showing a marked tendency to

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become less. As representing the War Office, I have only to add that no pains will be spared to prevent any act of ill-treatment being perpetrated by soldiers upon the native population of India.

House adjourned at half-past Seven
of the clock, till To-morrow,
half-past Ten of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 27th July 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

GREAT NORTHERN AND STRAND
RAILWAY BILL.

GREAT WESTERN AND GREAT
CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANIES
BILL.

LONDON, BRIGHTON, AND SOUTH
COAST RAILWAY (VARIOUS
POWERS) BILL.

SOUTH EASTERN AND LONDON'
CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAIL-
WAY COMPANIES (NEW LINES)
BILL.

STOCKPORT CORPORATION WATER
BILL.

WALKER AND WALLSEND UNION
GAS (ELECTRIC LIGHTING) BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and
agreed to.

ABERDEEN JOINT PASSENGER
STATION BILL [LORDS.].

Read 3^a, and passed, with Amend-
ments.

CALEDONIAN RAILWAY (GENERAL
POWERS) BILL [LORDS].

Queen's Consent signified,—read 3^a,
and passed, with Amendments.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY BILL
[LORDS].

Queen's Consent signified,—read 3^a,
and passed, with Amendments.

LEIGH-ON-SEA URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL BILL [LORDS].

YEADON AND GUISELEY GAS BILL
[LORDS].

Read 3^a, and passed, with Amend-
ments.

GLASGOW AND SOUTH WESTERN
RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

As Amended, considered; a Clause added; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time.

HASTINGS HARBOUR BILL [H.L.].

As amended, considered: to be read the third time.

OYSTERMOUTH RAILWAY OR TRAM-
ROAD BILL [H.L.].

As Amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN
RAILWAY BILL AND WATER-
FORD AND CENTRAL IRELAND
RAILWAY BILL.

Order read for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question [26th July], "That the Great Southern and Western Railway Bill and the Waterford and Central Ireland Railway Bill be withdrawn:"—
(*Mr. James William Lowther* :)

Question again proposed :

*THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

(*Mr. J. W. LOWTHER*, Cumberland, Penrith): Perhaps I may be allowed to give a short explanation of the reason why I have put this motion down. These two Bills were grouped with the Great Southern and Western and Limerick and Waterford Railways Amalgamation Bill; and a Hybrid Committee has occupied thirty sittings in considering the latter measure, only coming to a decision upon it at the latter end of last week. The Amalgamation Bill having been disposed of, there remained the question of what was to be done with the other Bills. The Great Southern and Western Company were under a statutory obligation to proceed with their Bill, but the Bill is opposed and must occupy some time, and therefore there is little hope of its passing in the present session. Both Bills originated in this House, and it would have been so late before they could be sent to another place that all hope of them passing into law this session would have been dashed to the ground. The Committee therefore presented a special report advising that the order for the committal of the Bill should be discharged and the Bill withdrawn, as the company could not themselves

withdraw the Bill. It is only right that, in view of the statutory obligation they are under, they should be granted some sort of Parliamentary release, and it is obvious it would not be fair to compel them to proceed with the Bill, in view of the fact that the great expenditure entailed thereby would be absolutely thrown away by reason of the impossibility of the Bill becoming law this session. I therefore ask the House to order the withdrawal of the Bill. In doing so I take it it will signify its acknowledgment that the promoters have fulfilled their obligation, and that it was simply due to the efflux of time that they were unable to get the Bill disposed of. The hon. Member for North Louth has a motion down to add words declaring that in the opinion of this House the promoters have discharged their obligations. It is not for me, but for you, Sir, to say if that is in order. I can only say that I fully agree with the spirit of the Amendment, although perhaps it is not desirable, after the statement I have made, that the words should be added to the motion which I beg to move.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): I think that in the course of the history of the Parliamentary oppression of Ireland, nothing equal to the course that has now been taken of the conduct of private business has yet occurred in the course of our relations with England. The motion is absolutely unparalleled and absolutely without precedent except in the case of a dissolution of Parliament. Yesterday, without notice to any Member of the House, a notice appeared on the Paper in a furtive and almost illicit manner, and at twelve o'clock, when nobody knew what was going to occur, the respected Chairman of the hybrid Committee marched up the floor, and the whole matter having been apparently arranged and rehearsed, a motion was made that the Bill be withdrawn. The Bill is one which it is the merest common form of Parliament to grant, namely, an extension of time to construct a small piece of railway some twenty or thirty miles in length. No one had a notice against it, and if the opponents of the Bill had gone before the Locus Standi Committee they would have been refused on the ground that on the question of the extension of time the merits had not been considered. There-

fore the Midland Company, which has been appearing as an opponent of the Bill, would, if its petition had been opposed, have been refused a locus. What happened? Another great and cardinal measure was before Parliament—a measure of the very first importance to Ireland—namely, a proposal to make an amalgamation between the Great Southern and Western and Waterford and Limerick Railways. That was a great measure, and to deal with it Parliament appointed a hybrid Committee. The second Bill was absolutely divorced from that measure and had nothing whatever to say to it. It was a mere proposal to give an extension of time for the construction of a piece of necessary railway; but, a hybrid Committee having been appointed to deal with the larger scheme, it was decided to refer the second Bill to the same Committee; and that hybrid Committee, which has expended its time during some thirty sittings in dealing with the first Bill, now comes down to the House to propose to withdraw a measure which, as I have said, it is the commonest form to pass without opposition, and which in the case of every English, Welsh, and Scotch Bill is given merely for the asking. Owing, I presume, to the heat, the Committee are unable to deal with the important question as to whether there shall be three years longer allowed to construct the line. I denounce such a proceeding, and very much regret that the Chairman of Committees should have felt himself obliged, owing to this condition of impotence, for it is nothing else, to make a motion of this kind. The comical part of the proceeding is that the Bill, which one hybrid Committee says it is unable to deal with this session, has been brought in by order of another hybrid Committee. By the Rosslare Act last year a hybrid Committee laid a statutory obligation upon these companies to bring in these Bills which another hybrid Committee confesses its inability to deal with. There is not a petty sessions court in the land which would deal out so monstrous and so expensive an injustice. I believe there has been passed for Scotland a measure to enable some kind of local inquiry to be substituted for inquiry at Westminster, and I am sorry to hear the First Lord of the Treasury say it cannot be extended to Ireland, because it is necessary to get some experience of Scotch procedure before we are treated to

a measure of the kind for Ireland. This is a matter, not of sentiment, but of hard cash. Scores and hundreds of witnesses were compelled to come to London, and expensive counsel had to be engaged to plead the question before the tribunals, and now the tribunal itself confesses its impotence. It may be some poor satisfaction to the promoters of this railway to get the limited endorsement which I propose by my Amendment, namely, to commence the Resolution with the words:—

“This House being of opinion that the promoters have discharged the obligation imposed on them by Section 72 of the Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Act, 1898.”

For myself I am entirely opposed to the motion. I think it establishes a very bad precedent, and it ought to give us a sickener of these hybrid Committees. The idea I have of a hybrid Committee is that the opponents and supporters of the measure should be equally represented upon it. But in the present case the gentlemen appointed by the House were confessedly all opponents of the measure, and I think it will be necessary whenever this system is resorted to again that the Members who are appointed shall frankly declare themselves friends or foes to the Bill. I can only humbly submit my Amendment as some slight mitigation of the evil of the motion which is now being moved.

*MR. SPEAKER: Do I understand the hon. Member to move his Amendment?

MR. T. M. HEALY: Yes, Sir.

*MR. SPEAKER: Then it becomes necessary for me to state that it is out of order.

SIR PENROSE-FITZGERALD (Cambridge): Perhaps I may be allowed to make a short statement with regard to the proceedings of the hybrid Committee whose conduct is now before the House. I was Chairman of that Committee. It is not altogether the case, as suggested by the hon. Member, that we declined to deal with the short extension of time Bill. What happened was this: Having disposed of the Amalgamation Bill, we came to the deci-

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sion to proceed next with the Central of Ireland Railway Bill : and, lastly, with the smallest Bill. Had it been only a question of the small Bill, I think the Committee would have been willing to go on with it, but, having come to the determination to take No. 2 Bill, they decided to go into the room and ask whether No. 3 Bill was opposed or not. The Committee were told from two quarters that it was opposed, and that it would be bitterly opposed. Having sat for 30 days over the first Bill, and paid the greatest attention to it, the Committee decided that it would be absolutely useless and a waste of time and money to proceed with the other two Bills, inasmuch as it was known that they had to go to another place and be endorsed there before becoming law. The Committee, I think, were wisely advised in the course they took. The Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for North Louth has my entire concurrence. I stated to the Committee more than once that, in my opinion, the promoters of this Bill had purged the promise or pledge which they gave to the Rosslare Committee last year by coming to Parliament and doing their best to carry it out. I think that they have done their very best to redeem their promise ; and I believe that every member of the Committee will say the same thing. It should be borne in mind that just when these large Bills of great importance to the people of Ireland were introduced, a grave and serious change had taken place in the representative bodies in the south and west of Ireland. The grand juries had ceased to exist, and the county councils and district councils had been substituted. When your Committee were appointed, the members of these new bodies had not got tight in their saddles, and this House, and your Committee, both felt it was well that those bodies should have time to maturely consider the grave issues put before them in Bills like these. Let me point out to hon. Members who have not the honour of being Irishmen—

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! I think it would be better not to go into matters arising upon a Bill not now before the House.

SIR PENROSE-FITZGERALD: The hon. Member cast a slight aspersion on the Committee by suggesting we ought to have gone on with this Bill; and I am

giving reasons why we did not commence our inquiry earlier, and thus have secured the possibility of concluding the Bills. I am stating that the county councils, having been appointed so recently, it was necessary, in order—

*MR. SPEAKER: I did not understand the hon. Member to say anything in criticism of the first Committee having lasted so long. What he complained of was that, having disposed of one Bill, they did not go on with the others. It would be out of order to go into the reasons why the Committee sat so long.

SIR PENROSE-FITZGERALD: I was dealing with the accusation of incompetence. I have shown we sat thirty days, and that had the Bill been submitted to us earlier in the session we might have been able to deal with all three.

MR. T. M. HEALY: "Impotence" was the word I used.

SIR PENROSE-FITZGERALD: I think I have said enough to show that the Committee have honestly and straightforwardly carried out the injunctions of this House, and after the expression of my opinion that the Amendment of the hon. Member for North Louth is just, I hope we may be allowed to proceed to other business.

MR. CARSON (Dublin University): This is a very important matter. The promoters were under a statutory obligation to promote this Bill, and the section of the Act of Parliament which imposed that obligation prevents them from annulling or varying certain contracts for the working of railways in Ireland until that statutory obligation has been disposed of by Parliament. They have, in fact, to continue the old arrangements at very great expense to themselves. They came to Parliament with this Bill under a statutory obligation, and the question now is, whether they are to be considered as having discharged the obligations placed upon them by the Act of last year. I hardly think that the motion before the House is a sufficient disposition by Parliament. It certainly would be a cruel thing to the promoters and shareholders to tell them later on that they have not discharged their statutory obligation, and to put them to the great expense of bringing the

Bill forward again. The addition of the words of the hon. Member for North Louth would make the matter perfectly clear. It might be argued, however, that as the motion now stands it is in no sense a disposition of the Bill by Parliament, but a withdrawal at the will of the promoters themselves. The promoters objected to withdraw the Bill; they were asked to do so several times, and declined. I am very anxious that this matter should be made clear, so as to save expense. I had something to do with sending this Bill to a hybrid Committee, and I would suggest to the Chairman of Committees whether the use of some such words as that "the Order for the Bill be discharged" would not be more apt, and not leave the matter open to the very scathing criticisms which lawyers always pass on the Acts of this House. It may not altogether satisfy the promoters, who have spent thousands of pounds in trying to fulfil these obligations, but it certainly would make their position more definite and clear.

*MR. J. W. LOWTHER: I think we are all agreed as to the course it is desired to pursue, and the question is, how best to achieve the end. In reply to the right hon. Gentleman who last spoke, I must point out that there is no order which could be "discharged." I submit that if the House accepts my motion, the House will order the Bill to be withdrawn. That will appear on the Votes and Proceedings to-morrow, and then the application made by the promoters to Parliament will have been disposed of by the House of Commons. Although I am very anxious to meet the views of my right hon. friend in the fullest possible way, I have not been able to discover any other plan than that I have suggested, viz., that the House itself should order the withdrawal.

Question put, and agreed to.

Ordered, That the Great Southern and Western Railway Bill and the Waterford and Central Ireland Railway Bill be withdrawn.

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION
(No. 2) BILL [LORDS.]

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION
(No. 3) BILL [LORDS.]

Read 3^a, and passed, with Amendments.

Mr. Carson.

PETITIONS.

BOARD OF EDUCATION BILL.

Petition from Halifax, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

BOROUGH FUNDS ACT, 1872.

Petition from Penzance, for alteration of law; to lie upon the Table.

GROUND RENTS (TAXATION BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES).

Petition from Whickham, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY.

Copy presented,—of Accounts and Estimates for the years 1896-1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SCIENCE AND ART DEPARTMENT.)

Copy presented,—of Calendar History and General Summary of Regulations for the year 1900 (with Tables) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

FIRE BRIGADES.

Return presented,—relative thereto [ordered 8th March; *Mr. Pym*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 299.)

LOCAL TAXATION (ENGLAND) ACCOUNT, 1898-9.

Return presented,—relative thereto [ordered 21st July; *Mr. T. W. Russell*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 301.)

LOCAL TAXATION RETURNS (ENGLAND.)

Copy presented,—of Part II. (Accounts of County Councils and Lunatic Asylums; Part III. (Municipal Borough Accounts, &c.); Part IV. (Accounts of Metropolitan Vestries, District Boards, &c.); Part V. (Accounts of Commissioners of Sewers, &c.); Part VI. (Accounts of Highway Authorities in Rural Districts); and Part VII. (Summary) [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 302.)

EAST INDIA CURRENCY.

Copy presented,—of Despatch of the Secretary of State for India in Council to

the Governor-General of India in Council, dated the 25th July 1899, respecting the Report of the Committee appointed to inquire into the Indian Currency [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

AFRICA (No. 7, 1899).

Copy presented,—of Correspondence respecting the African Liquor Traffic Convention. Signed at Brussels, 8th June 1889 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

CIVIL SERVICES, 1899-1900, SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE (IMPERIAL INSTITUTE BUILDINGS).

Estimate presented,—of the additional Amount required in the year ending the 31st March, 1900, for expenditure in respect of sundry public buildings in Great Britain, with copy of Treasury Minute explanatory of the arrangements for purchase and utilisation of the Imperial Institute Buildings [by Command]; referred to the Committee of Supply, and to be printed. (No. 300.)

IMPERIAL INSTITUTE (INDIAN SECTION).

Address for "Portions of the Annual Report of the Indian Section of the Imperial Institute for the year ending the 31st day of March, 1899, and of the preceding two years, embodying the more important details of the working of the section, and the results obtained in the scientific investigations of selected natural products from India carried on at the Imperial Institute."—(*Sir Mancherjee Bhownagree.*)

BREWERS' CASKS.

Return ordered, "of all the correspondence which has passed between the Board of Trade and the local authorities in England and Wales, relating to the testing and stamping of brewers' casks used as measures in trade, under the Weights and Measures Act, 1878, from and including the first day of January 1894, up to the present time."—(*Mr. Broadhurst.*)

QUESTIONS.

UNDER-AGE RECRUITS.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for

War whether he has now full information as to the case of Private Joseph McCombie, who was accepted as a recruit in the Gordon Highlanders in 1897, although he was born in 1882, and therefore only fifteen years old at the time of enlistment, or three years under the nominal regulation age of enlistment of eighteen; whether, seeing that an error of practically three years in judgment of age has been made, a reprimand will be inflicted on those responsible; if he can state the reason for the objection on the part of the War Office to require positive proof of age by the production from the recruit of a birth certificate, or, failing that, of a written permission to enlist from parent or guardian, as is done in the case of boys joining the Navy; and whether the present constant disregard of the regulations tends to bring Army orders into disrepute, and acts detrimentally on the best interests of recruiting.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (MR. WYNDEHAM, Dover): The facts are as follows: McCombie gave his age on enlistment as eighteen years and eight months, and the measurements supported this statement. More than a year afterwards his parents applied for his discharge, proving that he was only sixteen years and seven months when enlisted (not fifteen years, as stated in the question); but as he was by this time seventeen years and ten months old, the General Officer held him to serve. In reply to the remaining paragraphs, I have to say that an attempt was made recently to establish a system of verification, but in nearly half the cases examined it was found impossible, from various causes, to identify the recruit by means of the registers. The boys of the Navy are enlisted at much earlier ages, and are received from their parents or guardians. In the case of McCombie, no regulation has been disregarded, and no one will be reprimanded.

QUEEN'S REGULATIONS FOR THE ARMY.

MR. PIRIE: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if it is the case that a new edition of "Queen's Regulations for the Army" is about to be issued; what are the years in which the last five editions have been published; whether regulations can be devised which would command longer continuity; and whe-

ther, seeing that regimental and other officers have been hitherto compelled to provide themselves with the latest editions of the regulations at their own expense, the present issue can be provided for them without charge.

*MR. WYNDHAM : A new edition of the Queen's Regulations is in course of preparation. Editions were published in 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, and 1898. Every effort is made to reduce the number of alterations in these and all other regulations, but a considerable number of changes are unavoidable, and it is with the special object of relieving officers of the incessant posting up of the copies in their possession that an annual edition is issued. It is not proposed to distribute the Queen's Regulations to officers free of cost. The retail price of the book is eighteenpence.

COMMANDS AT NAVAL BASES.

SIR J. COLOMB (Great Yarmouth) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War, at what Naval bases, other than Esquimalt, have junior Royal Engineer officers been authorised to communicate direct with superior authority elsewhere, and to report independently on matters relating to the garrison and defence of the place; and, if so, what is the object of thus preventing their official communication passing through the hands of their superior officers on the spot responsible for the safety of the place in war.

*MR. WYNDHAM : Neither at Esquimalt nor at any other Naval base do Royal Engineer officers communicate direct with or report independently to the War Office on matters relating to the garrison and defence of the place, except when, as at Wei-hai-wei, such an officer occupies an independent command. With that exception, an officer of the Royal Engineers communicates through his commanding officer. But a General Officer commanding may, under Paragraph 198 of regulations for Engineer services, authorise an Engineer to communicate direct on services not requiring a reference to the General Officer commanding.

SIR J. COLOMB : My question was, have these officers been authorised to correspond with the superior authority.

*MR. WYNDHAM : That is a phrase very difficult of interpretation. The hon. and gallant Gentleman's questions are very argumentative. The superior authority may be the General Officer commanding.

NAVAL BASES STORES.

SIR J. COLOMB : I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for War what department of the Royal Engineers is responsible for supplying Naval bases with submarine stores and appliances; and what Naval bases, other than Esquimalt, has this department failed, during a period of years, to supply with such stores.

*MR. WYNDHAM : The Director-General of Ordnance is responsible for the supply of stores. There has been no failure to supply the authorised equipment of submarine stores and appliances.

SIR J. COLOMB : Does that answer apply to the present time or the past ?

*MR. WYNDHAM : The Director-General of Ordnance informs me that he is responsible, and is not aware of any failure.

INDIAN JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION.

SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN (Banffshire) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he has received a memorial, signed by Indian judicial authorities of the highest position, urging the separation of judicial from executive functions in the Indian administration; whether he will state what action he proposes to take on this memorial; and whether, looking to the fact that the Government of India anticipates a surplus of Rx.4,759,400 for 1898-9, and of Rx.3,932,600 for 1899-1900, the time is opportune, from a financial point of view, for dealing with a reform which has been long prayed for by the Indian community.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing) : The memorial to which the question refers has been received, and I propose to forward it to the Government of India, requesting them to consider it and to report to me the conclusions at which they arrive. Until I shall have received their reply, I can say nothing as to the

desirability of the proposed change, or as to the views of the people of India on the subject.

CHIEF JUSTICESHIP OF MADRAS.

SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether Mr. Justice S. Subramana Iyer has been appointed to officiate as Chief Justice of Madras; and, whether there is any legal objection to such appointment being confirmed.

LORD G. HAMILTON : My answer to the first question is in the affirmative. As regards the second question, I am advised that Section 2 of the High Courts Act, 24 and 25 Vict., cap. 104, requires that the person appointed Chief Justice of a High Court (otherwise than in a temporary vacancy under Section 7 of the Act) must be a barrister, a qualification which the officiating Chief Justice does not possess.

BENGAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.

MR. H. J. WILSON (York, W. R., Holmfirth) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India why the agricultural statistics for Bengal are incomplete or wholly wanting, as stated on page 119 of the Blue Book on the Moral and Material Progress of India.

LORD G. HAMILTON : Over the greater part of Bengal the land revenue is permanently settled, and the revenue establishments in the interior are slender. Consequently, full and accurate agricultural statistics are not, and never have been, available for the province. Where the cadastral survey has been carried out, information is being collected. On the page mentioned in the Parliamentary Paper, the only figures absolutely wanting are those relating to live stock and to the irrigated area. Under all other heads approximate figures for Bengal, based on the best available information, are given.

MADRAS LAND REVENUE DEFAULTERS.

SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the correspondence with the Madras Government regarding land revenue defaulters is now concluded; and, if so, whether he will lay that corre-

spondence upon the Table, as agreed in June, 1896.

LORD G. HAMILTON : The correspondence is concluded; and I will lay it on the Table if the honourable Baronet will move for it.

OPIUM SMOKING IN CALCUTTA.

MR. H. J. WILSON : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he has any information that opium smoking shops still flourish in Calcutta and carry on an illicit business quite openly; and what action he proposes to take in the matter.

LORD G. HAMILTON : I have to thank the hon. Gentleman for the newspaper cutting he sent me, but I have not otherwise received any information that the Calcutta opium smoking shops are carrying on an illicit business quite openly. No licences for such shops are granted in Calcutta. The subject of the hon. Member's question will be brought to the notice of the Government of India.

VENEREAL DISEASE IN THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

MR. H. J. WILSON : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether an ordinance in reference to venereal disease has lately been passed in the Straits Settlements; and whether he will lay upon the Table any correspondence on the subject, as promised on the 8th May 1898, together with a copy of the ordinance.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.) : A Bill has been introduced into the Legislative Council of the Straits Settlements, on lines suggested by me, dealing with the subject of the hon. Member's question, and the protection of women and girls. It will shortly be passed, with slight amendment. The correspondence will be given at once.

TRINIDAD IMPORT DUTIES.

MR. J. M. MACLEAN (Cardiff) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has sanctioned a resolution, passed by a majority of five to three of the unofficial members of the Legislative Council of Trinidad, in favour of the imposition of a surtax of 10 per

cent. on all imports from countries granting bounties on sugar; whether the unofficial members of the Legislative Council of Trinidad are nominated by the Crown, and not elected by the people; whether the total value of imports into the colony from the Continent of Europe is only about £200,000 a year; and what proportion of this amount represents the imports from bounty-giving States.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The answer to the first question is in the negative, and to the two following questions in the affirmative. According to the 1897 returns—the last available—£166,000 out of £178,000.

TRADING MONOPOLIES IN THE TRANSVAAL.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if Her Majesty's Government have received information that the Transvaal Government have created further trading or commercial monopolies within the Republic; whether the South African Republic, on 14th December, 1898, sold to Messrs. Tranmer and Company the exclusive right to manufacture carbide of calcium, without reference to the ownership of the patent previously registered within their territory by British subjects; is the grant of such a monopoly, without regard to patent rights, authorised by the London Convention; was the Transvaal Government aware that the French patent for the manufacture of carbide, acquired at considerable cost and duly registered in the Republic, was owned by Messrs. Read, Holliday, and Sons, Limited, of Huddersfield, at the time when a monopoly was granted to Tranmer and Company, who possess no patent; is the effect of such a monopoly that patentees or their assignees cannot work their patent without the licence from the monopolist, although the latter has no patent; and can the monopolist manufacture without acquiring the patent registered in the Republic; if so, why does the Transvaal Government maintain a patent office and accept fees for registering patents when they will not allow them to be worked, owing to the exclusive right to manufacture having been sold to persons who have no ownership in the process.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: During the last three years the Transvaal Govern-

ment have granted a number of concessions for the manufacture under favourable conditions, such as protective duties, of articles for which a demand exists in the country. Amongst these is the concession to Tranmer and Company for the manufacture of calcium carbide, to which the hon. Member refers. It does not appear, however, that an exclusive right has been granted to Tranmer and Company, and I apprehend, therefore, that the holders of a patent in the Transvaal for the manufacture of calcium carbide continue to have a perfect right to exercise their patent rights without interference from the concessionaire. Whether the latter could legally manufacture calcium carbide without acquiring the patent is a technical question as to the process of manufacture which, I am afraid, I am not able to answer. If, however, exclusive rights have been granted to the concessionaire, as to which I shall make inquiry, the situation is different. The concession would apparently be open to the objections urged against the dynamite concession in my despatch of the 13th of January, which was published in Blue Book c. 9317, and would be a breach of Art. XIV. of the London Convention, even in the absence of any previously acquired patent rights.

MR. DAVITT (Mayo, S.): Can the right hon. Gentleman tell us who Tranmer and Company are, and whether they are British subjects?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I cannot say as a matter of fact. I have heard they are German subjects.

TRANSVAAL PAPERS.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: In my absence the hon. Member for Rushcliffe asked a question as to certain Papers, and I have now to announce that Papers as to the accounts of the British South Africa Company have been laid on the Table, and I hope they will be delivered To-morrow. There has been so much pressure on the printers, however, that I cannot be certain. I also promised further Papers as to political reforms in the South African Republic. They also will be distributed to-morrow, and some copies will be available in the Vote Office to-night should any Members wish to have them.

SLAVERY IN NIGERIA.

MR. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the legal status of slavery, abolished by decree of the Niger Company, will remain abolished in the territories of the company when the charter is revoked.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The answer is in the affirmative.

FALKIRK LEVEL RAILWAY CROSSING.

MR. JOHN WILSON (Falkirk Burghs): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he has, as promised, made representations to the North British Railway Company as to the dangers and delays connected with the Wallace Street level crossing at Falkirk, and what reply has been given, if any, by the railway company; if he is aware that the railway passes through one of the busiest streets of the town, and that according to observations taken on 12th June last there passed over the crossing 3,000 persons, and 1,400 over the bridge, 55 cattle, 56 machines, 5 horses, and 78 carts; and, if he will take steps to have this danger to the lieges remedied as early as possible.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): The right hon. Gentleman has asked me to answer for him as follows: Yes, Sir; the Board of Trade communicated with the company upon the subject of this level crossing, and they have a reply which I shall be happy to show to the hon. Member. The line at the point referred to is not a statutory railway, and the Board have no powers whatever with regard to it.

CATTLE-CARRYING TRAFFIC—DISPOSAL OF CARCASSES WASHED ASHORE.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been directed to a resolution passed at the last meeting of the Cork County Council, protesting against the ratepayers being saddled with the expense of the removal and burial of carcasses washed on shore from cattle-carrying vessels; and whether, in view of the fact that the Board of Trade appropriates all unclaimed wrecked property, steps will be taken to re-

lieve the ratepayers from the cost thus incurred.

MR. HANBURY (for Mr. RITCHIE): The Board of Trade has received a copy of the resolution referred to by the hon. and gallant Member. Local authorities have, under the Diseases of Animals Acts, always been liable for the expense of burying or destroying carcasses of cattle washed ashore, and my right hon. friend is not prepared to promote legislation for the Amendment of those Acts.

CAPTAIN DONELAN: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that no foreign carcasses are used for any purpose in Ireland, except as a food supply for the troops?

MR. HANBURY: No, I am not aware. It is not in my Department.

BOY SAILORS.

MR. CHARLES M'ARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether shipowners have as yet to any, and, if so, to what extent, signified their intention of availing themselves of the proposals for the carrying of boy sailors included in Section 6 of the Mercantile Marine Fund Act of last Session; and whether any, and, if so, what number of boys have been enrolled in the Royal Naval Reserve under the provisions of the scheme.

MR. HANBURY (for Mr. RITCHIE): No special intimation has been made to the Board of Trade by shipowners generally as to the extent to which they are likely to avail themselves of the provisions of the section to which my hon. friend refers. So far, twelve firms have, since the 1st April, enrolled boys as probationers in the Royal Naval Reserve under this scheme, and the number of boys so enrolled is 112.

RAILWAY SHUNTING.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether it is now understood, on the part of the railways of the United Kingdom, that they are prepared to replace steam capstans on their systems for shunting purposes by hydraulic capstans, which can be stopped at once, and serious accidents thereby prevented or diminished greatly in number.

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MR. HANBURY (for Mr. RITCHIE) : No general promise has been received from the companies, but it is believed that the matter is receiving favourable consideration. Evidence on the subject has been given before the Royal Commission on Accidents to Railway Servants, but, as the honourable Member is aware, the Commission has not yet reported.

THE CASTLEFORD POSTMAN.

MR. STEADMAN (Tower Hamlets, Stepney) : I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether the auxiliary postman, George Naylor, of Castleford (Yorkshire), who had, previous to the 9th July, 1899, served a full year as an assistant postman, but was reduced on that date through revision of duties, is entitled to annual leave for that period of assistant postman's service ; and on what grounds the surveyor of his district, who has been applied to, refuses to grant it, seeing that Naylor had already been allowed to sign the leave sheet, and had the revision taken place a fortnight later, he would have actually taken his holidays.

MR. HANBURY : The auxiliary postman referred to was granted leave of absence in respect of the year ending 31st December last, because he was, during that period, acting as assistant postman with five hours' daily duty. The leave sheet for the current year was prepared early in the year, before the change of duties now made was sanctioned ; and as the auxiliary postman is now performing only three hours' duty a day he is not entitled to leave.

CLASSIFICATION OF LONDON SORTERS.

MR. STEADMAN : I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, will he explain why, although the system of classification in the sorters' classes of the London postal service was abolished in accordance with the Tweedmouth Committee recommendations, it is continued in regard to sorters taking their annual leave ; and if he will consider the advisability of removing this inequality at an early date, so as to carry out the Committee's recommendation in this matter in its entirety.

MR. HANBURY : Although the promotion barrier between the first and second classes of sorters has been abolished, the difference in the duties of the two classes still remains. It would be impossible to allow all the men of the old first class to take their holidays at the same time, and the choice of holidays must be so arranged as to provide a sufficient number of men to perform the different duties in each of the old classes. All the men have the privilege of leave within the eight pleasanter months of the year.

BELFAST POST OFFICE AND POSTMASTERSHIPS.

MR. STEADMAN : I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether he is aware that there has not been a postmastership given to an officer of the Sorting Office, Belfast, for over twenty years ; and whether he will favourably consider applications from officers in the Belfast Sorting Office for a vacancy (Coleraine) in the North of Ireland.

MR. HANBURY : Taking the Belfast office as a whole, the staff cannot be regarded as unfortunate, as during the last eighteen years no fewer than six postmasterships have been conferred upon officers in the Belfast office. The claims and qualifications of any officers of the sorting staff, who may be candidates for any vacancy, are considered with those of others.

HANLEY POST OFFICE.

MR. WOODALL (Hanley) : I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, what progress has been, or is being made in providing more commodious postal and telegraphic accommodation for the service of the county borough of Hanley.

MR. HANBURY : This matter has been under inquiry at the Office of Works, and it is understood that the Board are about to recommend a scheme for the erection of a new post office for Hanley on a site in Tontine Street to be acquired from the Corporation.

BRIEF TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES.

MR. CLARE (Lancashire, Eccles) : I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General,

whether, at the post offices in Manchester, or any of them, instructions have been received to refuse acceptance for transmission of telegrams addressed "R. Lonie, Cadishead"; whether he is aware that telegrams so addressed have been received and delivered at Cadishead without any difficulty or delay for upwards of fifteen years; and that Mr. Lonie is well known to all the postal and telegraph messengers in Cadishead; whether any difficulty has been experienced in delivering telegrams to Mr. Lonie; and whether telegrams addressed as above have been refused on the ground of such difficulty, or for some other and what reason.

MR. HANBURY: No such instructions as those to which the hon. Member refers appear to have been issued. It is of much importance that, in order to ensure the delivery of telegrams without delay, the address should contain full particulars. In the present case the name of the street should, at least, be given. In the absence of such particulars difficulty may at any time arise, even in the case of a well-known person, owing to changes taking place in the staff of the office, or from other cause.

MR. LEES KNOWLES: I beg to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he is aware that in some instances post cards addressed precisely in the same way as telegrams, alleged to be insufficiently addressed, have been delivered; whether the Post Office authorities decline to register certain telegraphic addresses, although such addresses might have been used for many years, and whether—

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

MR. LEES KNOWLES: I have given the right hon. Gentleman notice of the question.

MR. SPEAKER: The question had better be put on the Paper.

CLONES POST OFFICE.

MR. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether the Post Office authorities in Dublin have abandoned the scheme formulated some time ago for the erection of a new post office in Clones; and whether he can state the date when the

people of Clones first complained of the great inconvenience they experience in having to transact their business in the corner of a small grocery shop where it is next to impossible to write out a telegram or obtain a post office order with any privacy, or transact any business without the knowledge of the shop customers.

MR. HANBURY: The Postmaster-General has not abandoned the intention of erecting a new post office at Clones, and the Board of Public Works is considering whether the best of the sites which have been offered for the purpose can be made to suffice. The earliest representation addressed by the inhabitants direct to the Department seems to have been in 1898, when they objected to a site which was then under consideration. The office is at present held in a shop one half of which is used for the sale of grocery, but no specific complaint can be traced of the particular inconveniences mentioned in the question. The arrangements for a new office shall be pressed forward as much as possible.

OFFICE OF THE ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL OF THE COURT OF CHANCERY.

SIR F. DIXON-HARTLAND (Middlesex, Uxbridge): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether his attention has been directed to the case of eleven remaining gentlemen who, prior to 1866, were appointed by the Accountant-General of the Court of Chancery as clerks in his office on the terms of an Act passed in the year 1812, under which their predecessors received pensions amounting to their full salaries, who have been informed that the Treasury are advised that, notwithstanding that the rights of these officers were expressly reserved by the Superannuation Acts of 1852 and 1866, the Treasury are precluded from awarding them pensions at the full rate, and are only able to grant them to the amount limited by the Act of 1866; whether his attention has been directed to the opinion of Sir Horace Davey to the effect that the view of the Treasury was not well founded; and, whether he is willing that the question should be referred to the law officers, in order that the officials in question may have an opportunity of submitting the opinion of Mr. A. Macmorran, Q.C., and Mr. William Graham, which has recently been taken, in which concur-

rence in the opinion of Sir Horace Davey is expressed.

MR. HANBURY : I am aware of the opinion given by Sir Horace Davey on the case, and that opinion was at the time brought to the notice of the Law Officers of the Crown, who advised that they saw no reason to modify the opinion which they had already expressed. The course suggested by my hon. friend has therefore already been adopted.

SORTING CLERKS' INCREMENTS.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, West) : I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether it is the practice that when the arrestment of a sorting clerk's increment is under consideration the officer affected is furnished with a written statement setting forth his irregularities and late attendances for the preceding twelve months, and invited to submit in reply thereto a reason or reasons why his increment should not be withheld; if so, will he state why the practice has been departed from in Glasgow, where three sorting clerks during the present month have, without any reason or reasons verbal or written being assigned, had their increments arrested; and whether steps will be taken so as to ensure in the future that every officer whose increment is being questioned shall be furnished prior to contemplated arrestment of increment with a written statement showing why the granting of his annual increase is being submitted to question.

MR. HANBURY : In any case where an explanation seems necessary the officer is called upon to furnish one; but there are many cases where a certificate of approved conduct cannot be given in consequence of serious irregularity dealt with during the year, and then no further explanation is needed as the records speak for themselves. The cases at Glasgow to which the question is understood to refer were not cases of ordinary annual increments, but cases in which the question arose of allowing officers to pass the efficiency bar. The certificate that they did not comply with the conditions in regard to efficiency was sufficient in itself, and could not be affected by any explanation from the officers concerned.

BEN NEVIS OBSERVATORY.

MR. BUCHANAN : I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, whether the Government has declined to sanction a grant of £1,000 to enable the Ben Nevis observatory, the only high level observatory in the country, to be carried on for a further period of two years.

MR. HANBURY : The facts are not as implied in the question. The Government make a grant to the Meteorological Council of £15,300 a year. They have abstained from expressing any opinion as to what portion of that grant should be assigned to the Ben Nevis Observatory. That is a question for the Meteorological Council, which, I may remind the House, includes a special representative of Scottish meteorologists.

MR. BUCHANAN : Did not the right hon. Gentleman say, exactly a year ago, that the Government would endeavour to persuade the Council to make a grant to the observatory?

MR. HANBURY : We have done so, but apparently they do not think they should do so.

MR. BUCHANAN : Will the First Lord of the Treasury give us half-an-hour to discuss the Meteorological Vote?

(No answer was given.)

RAILWAYS IN ASIA MINOR.

LORD EDMOND FITZMAURICE (Wilts, Cricklade) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether the Turkish Government is proposing to extend the railway from Konieh, across Mesopotamia, towards the Persian Gulf, and to grant a concession with that object to an Anglo-Hungarian syndicate; and if it is proposed to lay any Papers relating to the development of railways in Asia Minor before Parliament.

***THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MR. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford) :** Her Majesty's Government are aware that proposals have been made to the Turkish Government for a railway of the kind described. But we are not informed that the proposals have been accepted. There

are no recent Papers on the subject of railway development in Asia Minor which could usefully be laid before Parliament, but Her Majesty's Ambassador has his attention fully directed to this question.

DANUBE NAVIGATION DUES.

LORD EDMOND FITZMAURICE: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if the navigation dues proposed to be levied at the Iron Gates of the Danube by the Austro-Hungarian Government, under the European treaties affecting the navigation of the river, have now been published, and if Her Majesty's Government have been consulted; and if the attention of the Foreign Office has been directed to the observations of Mr. Acting-Consul General Liddell, in his report of 12th June 1899, page 7, on the probable effect of these dues on British capital and trade in Roumania.

***MR. BRODRICK:** The tariff of these dues has been published, and will come into force on the 1st of September next. As I informed the noble Lord on the 2nd of May last, the tariff in question was submitted for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, and was not considered to be in violation of any treaty rights. Mr. Liddell's report was published by the Foreign Office. The general effect of the new dues upon British trade, shipping, and capital has, however, been carefully considered in connection with reports from other quarters.

RED SEA LIGHTS.

SIR J. FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Foreign Office have information that the Porte will at an early period procure the establishment of the four lights so long desired at the southern end of the Red Sea; and if any steps are yet being taken to establish one or more lights in the Gulf of Aden.

***MR. BRODRICK:** An arrangement has been come to between the Turkish Government and the Turkish Lighthouse Administration for the construction and maintenance of the proposed lights, and in pursuance of this arrangement a scheme of dues on shipping has now been brought forward by the Porte for the concurrence of Her Majesty's Government

and the other Powers interested. This scheme is inconsistent with the information furnished in reply to my right hon. friend's question of 11th of May last; and Her Majesty's Government are considering what answer should be returned to the Turkish proposals. The Government of India have been requested to prepare, for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, a scheme for the erection of a lighthouse on the island of Socotra.

BRITISH INDIANS IN JAPAN.

SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether British Indians are wholly excluded from the benefits of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation which was entered into between Great Britain and Japan on the 16th July, 1894, and has recently come into operation; if so, what are the reasons for this exclusion; what is now the position, since the treaty came into operation, of British Indians travelling and trading in Japan; and, whether it is proposed to take any steps to extend the benefits of the treaty to British India.

***MR. BRODRICK:** Negotiations are in progress with the Japanese Government for the accession of India to the treaty.

DEFECTIVE AND EPILEPTIC CHILDREN.

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE (Rochester): I beg to ask Mr. Solicitor-General if he will state whether the words "any school," in Section 4, Sub-section (8), of the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893, which is incorporated in Clause 12 of the Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Bill now before Parliament, include a public elementary school duly certified by the Education Department as suitable for the purposes of the Bill.

***THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir R. B. FINLAY, Inverness Burghs):** The words "any school," in Section 4, Sub-section (8), of the Elementary Education Act, 1893, apply to public elementary schools as well as to others.

THE TRANSVAAL FRANCHISE.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifon): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General whether British Uitlanders who

will avail themselves of the facilities to obtain the franchise in the Transvaal now being provided by the South African Republic will on returning to their native country be in the position of aliens, and will have to reside nearly six years in this country before they can obtain the franchise here; whether during that period of exclusion they will be ineligible as Members of Parliament, county and municipal councils, and every other local authority; and whether Her Majesty's Government will apprise the British Uitlanders that these serious disqualifications will result from the renunciation of allegiance to the British Crown.

SIR R. B. FINLAY: I am not in a position to answer the first and second paragraphs of this question until a definite statement of the nature of the facilities to be granted for obtaining the franchise in the Transvaal has been obtained. The papers which have been published contain full information upon the general question referred to in the third paragraph of the question.

MR. NUSSEY (Pontefract): Will the right hon. Gentleman consider the advisability of introducing a Bill next session to enable British citizens who have lost their rights in this country owing to their absence abroad—

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That hardly arises out of the question.

OVERTIME IN THE JAM INDUSTRY.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will modify his Order as to overtime in factories and workshops in which the washing of bottles is carried on, so as to prevent any risk of its being held in law to apply, contrary to his wish, in the case of the washing of bottles in jam factories.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir M. WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): I am quite clear that the Order referred to does not apply to jam factories, and I cannot think that there is any risk of its being held in law to do so. The Factory Department will see that it is not made use of in jam factories.

MARGARINE MANUFACTORIES.

MR. ARTHUR MOORE (Londonderry): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that a Return of Margarine Manufacturers (in continuation of the Return of Session 1892), moved for some two months ago, has not yet been made to the House; and if he could explain to the House how he intends to set the new Act in motion, should it become law, when the local authorities are unwilling, or unable, to make such a Return as the one ordered within two months of the Order of the House.

MR. ANSTRUTHER (St. Andrews Burghs): My right hon. friend the President of the Board of Agriculture is detained elsewhere, and has asked me to read his answer as follows:—

"I am aware of the fact to which the hon. Member refers, but I do not think it need be concluded therefrom that we shall experience any great difficulty in securing the efficient working of the Sale of Food and Drugs Bill when it becomes law. A certain amount of delay in the presentation of a Return is not unlikely to occur when information has to be obtained from several hundred sources in all three divisions of the United Kingdom."

PROVISIONAL ORDER PROCEDURE.

MR. CLARE: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether it is usual for the Board, after a local inquiry between two or more local authorities, to give notice to each opposing authority of the granting and issue for confirmation by Parliament of the consequent Provisional Order, if any; and, if so, for what reason, after the inquiry held in Manchester on the 17th of February, 1899, as to giving power for acquiring land in Flixton for sewage disposal, no notice of the Board's intention to issue an Order was given to the Flixton Parish Council, who appeared on the inquiry as opponents of the scheme.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. CHAPLIN, Lincolnshire, Sleaford): When a Provisional Order of the kind referred to is issued, copies of it are forthwith served on the owners, lessees, and occupiers of the lands proposed to be purchased under it, and this was done in the case mentioned in the question. But beyond this, it is not usual to give notice of the issue

of the Order to opponents of the application for it.

VACCINATION IN SOMERSETSHIRE.

MR. LLEWELLYN (Somersetshire, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the increase in the number of children certified as successfully vaccinated in the Axbridge Union of the county of Somerset during the first six months of the present year as against a similar period of 1898; and whether he can state the figures.

MR. CHAPLIN: It appears from the Return which has been made to the Local Government Board that the number of certificates of successful primary vaccination received by the vaccination officers of the Axbridge Union in the first six months of 1898 was 81, and during the first six months of the present year 415—an increase of 334, or over 400 per cent.

EDINBURGH MUSEUM ATTENDANT.

MR. DEWAR (Edinburgh, S.): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether he is aware that the late William Samuel, an attendant for thirty-three years in Edinburgh Museum, was retired on a pension of £52 1s. 6d. per annum in January last, and that he died in April, leaving a widow, and without having received any portion of his pension; whether he has been informed that the said William Samuel surrendered as pension equivalent from his weekly wage sums amounting in all to £58 9s. 4d.; whether he is aware that on April 12th, 1892, the Royal Commission on Civil Service issued a report recommending that in the event of the death of a pensioner before the amount received in pension has reached the whole of the sum deducted from his pay during his service, his representatives should receive the difference between such total deductions and the amount received as pension; whether he has been informed that the widow of the said William Samuel has made application, in terms of said recommendation, to have the sum of £58 9s. 4d. the pension equivalent deducted from her husband's pay, refunded to her, and that this application has been refused; and whether he will now take such steps as he may consider necessary to have the Royal Commission's reco-

mendation carried out, and Mrs. Samuel's husband's money refunded to her.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (Sir J. GORST, Cambridge University): The reply to the first paragraph of the hon. Member's question is in the affirmative. The other paragraphs should be addressed to the Secretary of Her Majesty's Treasury.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND.

MR. WILLIAM JOHNSTON (Belfast, S.): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education when the Report of the trustees of the National Library of Ireland (Kildare Street, Dublin) for 1898 will be laid before Parliament; whether he is aware that the present building is inadequate for the increasing number of books; whether there is any intention to raise the grant of £1,300, given for the purchase of books, as this is the only library in Ireland similar to the British Museum; and whether the Government will comply with the urgent request of the trustees by increasing the staff of attendants and assistant librarians, and generally improving the position of the library for the benefit of the many students who frequent it.

SIR J. GORST: The Report of the trustees of the National Library of Ireland is published as part of the Report of the Science and Art Department, which will be in the hands of Members shortly. I am aware that further accommodation is required, and application has been made to the Board of Works for the completion of the unfinished wing of the building. A new room has recently become available, and this will in some degree mitigate the pressure. The grant was increased from £1,000 to £1,300 a year for the financial year 1898-9, and for the four following years. It is not probable that any further increase can be made at present. In reply to the concluding paragraph of the hon. Member's question, I find that the staff of attendants has been increased by four since September, 1896, two of whom were added as lately as April last.

VACCINATION IN SOUTH UIST.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON (Glasgow, Bridgeton): I beg to ask the Lord Advo-

cate whether the attention of the Local Government Board has been called to a resolution passed by the South Uist Parish Council on the 19th instant, asserting that the children whose cases formed the subject of the charges in respect of which Dr. Lamont was in March last unanimously acquitted by an Inverness jury have not been effectively vaccinated, and directing their clerk to take legal steps to have the certificates of vaccination reduced and rescinded and the entries in the parish registers relating to them deleted with a view of placing the names of the children and their parents on the list of defaulters; whether, before spending the money of the ratepayers in litigation with a view to compelling the parents of these children under penalty of fine or imprisonment to submit their children to revaccination, any attempt has been made by the parish council to ascertain whether they object to the operation in any cases in which the medical officer may consider that operation desirable; in how many of the sixteen cases vaccinated by Dr. Lamont, and alleged by the parish council not to have been effectually vaccinated, the local authorities had allowed the statutory age to elapse prior to Dr. Lamont's appointment without taking any steps to enforce vaccination; and whether, in case it should appear that the legal proceedings threatened are vindictive and unnecessary, the official auditor has power to protect the ratepayers by surcharging the members of the parish council with the costs incurred.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): As regards the first, second, and third paragraphs of the question, the Local Government Board have no information except what has been derived from the newspapers, and cannot, therefore, at present either affirm or deny the accuracy of the statements made. As to the last paragraph, the Official Auditor in Scotland has no power of surcharge, his duty being limited to reporting to the Local Government Board any payments which he may consider illegal. The question as to surcharging or not depends upon the Board, and it is impossible to pronounce an opinion till the facts are known.

SCOTTISH LAW'S DELAYS.

MR. BUCHANAN: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether his attention has

been called to the great inconvenience caused in Scotland in the long delay in giving judgment in recent cases of great importance appealed from Scotland; and whether he can suggest any method of removing the grievance.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I believe that the case to which I understand the hon. Member to refer has now been disposed of. It is unavoidable that from fortuitous circumstances delay should sometimes occur in a particular case, but I am not aware of any general grievance which calls for a remedy.

CHARGE AGAINST BELFAST CONSTABLES.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that two constables of the Royal Irish Constabulary on duty in Chichester Street, Belfast, on the 20th inst., were charged by a city official with being drunk, and were immediately placed under arrest and brought to the Belfast Police Office, where they were paraded before superior officers and found to be perfectly sober; and whether the city official has offered any reparation to the constables for the false charge made against them; and, if not, whether the constables will be allowed to have recourse to ordinary civil remedies, open to other citizens in similar cases.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The facts are as stated in the first paragraph. The Lord Mayor of Belfast, who is the official referred to, has admitted that he made a mistake, and expressed his regret for what has happened. The character of the constables has been fully cleared, and I do not consider this is a case in which permission should be given to institute civil proceedings.

MR. DILLON: Will the right hon. Gentleman reconsider this decision, and allow these two constables, who were arrested when on duty on the charge of being drunk, whereas they are now admitted to have been perfectly sober, and were marched to the police office, to have recourse to the same remedy as every citizen—

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is arguing the question on the Paper. It has been fully answered.

MR. DAVITT: Do I understand the official referred to was the Lord Mayor of Belfast?

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: Yes, Sir.

MR. DILLON: Is it not the fact he had just come out from a banquet to Mr. Ismay?

No answer was given.

FARM SALES IN ULSTER.

MR. DAVITT: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, with reference to the true value fixed upon the farm of James Chisholm, near Whitehouse, Belfast, on the application of the landlord, at £480, by the County Court Judge of County Antrim, whether he is aware that the farm was sold by public auction for £900, and on appeal to the Land Commission the highest bidder at the public sale swore he was still prepared to give for the lands upwards of £900, and a gentleman named Mr. Rice swore then he (Mr. Rice) was willing to give £1,000 for same; whether notwithstanding this evidence, and the fact that a judicial rent had been fixed thereon, the Chief Commission decided that £675 was the true value of this farm for which £1,000 had been offered in open court; and if the law will be amended so as to enable the farmers of Ulster and Ireland to secure for their farms offered for sale the full price instead of only a portion of it.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The facts are as stated in the first and second paragraphs. The Land Commission Court judically decreed that the true value of the tenancy was £675. The rent of the holding was £40. In reply to the last paragraph, it is not my intention to make a proposal for altering the law with respect to the true value of a holding as between landlord and tenant.

FAIR RENT APPEALS IN COUNTY ANTRIM.

MR. DAVITT: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland how many cases of fair rent appeals from County Antrim were heard by the Chief Land Commissioners during their last sitting at Belfast; in how many of these cases were the appeals made by the landlords; and in how many of them

were the judicial rents fixed by the Sub-Commissioners increased by the Chief Commissioners. I beg also to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state the number of fair rent appeals heard by the Chief Land Commission during its recent sitting at Belfast; in how many cases have their decisions been given; and in what number have the decisions of the Sub-Commissioners been confirmed, reduced, and increased respectively.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I am informed that the number of fair rent appeals heard by the Land Commissioners at their recent sitting in Belfast was eighty-four—all of which were from the County Antrim and in all of which the landlords were the appellants. In twenty-four of these cases the rents fixed by the Assistant Commissioners were confirmed; in two cases they were reduced; and in fifty-six cases they were increased. The remaining two cases had been dismissed by order of the Assistant Commissioners, which Orders were confirmed on appeal.

RULES OF SUPPLY.

SIR CHARLES DILKE: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he intends to ask the House to close the Committee of Supply at the earliest possible date, or whether, having regard to the large number of Votes undiscussed, and to the fact that on some of the allotted days the House adjourned at an early hour, he will, without exceeding the number of allotted days, give additional time in the present session to Supply.

MR. J. E. ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): I beg, at the same time, to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, inasmuch as no less than seventy-three Votes in Supply remain to be taken, and only one more day of effective discussion in respect of these Votes is left, he will consider, before again moving the Sessional Order with respect to Supply, whether such modification in its terms or working is possible as will secure to the House the efficient discharge of its function of criticism and control of the policy and expenditure of the Administrative Departments.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): Perhaps I may be allowed to answer

these two questions at the same time. It is perfectly true, as the right hon. Baronet states, that on two of the allotted days the House adjourned before twelve o'clock, but on two other of the allotted days it sat beyond twelve o'clock. On no day, however, have we adjourned early except under conditions which convinced us we should probably get more money by taking that course. Every gentleman acquainted with procedure in this House knows that sometimes you get a great deal in a short time by promising not to sit a long time; therefore I need not dwell upon that fact. I think that if we did adjourn before midnight on those two occasions the result was not to diminish the number of Votes taken but to increase it. With regard to the question of the hon. Member for the Rushcliffe Division, it is perfectly true that there are more outstanding Votes at the present time than I should desire, and I hope a great many will be disposed of before the hour for the closure arrives; but I would remind hon. Gentleman that, as far as I know, except the Colonial Vote, which is coming on to-morrow, every great Department of State has passed in review before the House—the Board of Agriculture must also be excepted—and that of the seventy-three Votes left a good many of them, and those the most important, represent Votes not indeed carried by the House, but Votes which have been discussed, and in some instances very fully discussed, by the House. Of course I am anxious to diminish the number of those Votes, but when I try to make an arrangement to carry out that object I am not very earnestly seconded by Gentlemen in other quarters of the House. For instance, I proposed that some uncontroversial Votes should be taken to-morrow before the Colonial Vote. That proposal met with a good deal of opposition from individual Members opposite. I have since received an intimation from the Leader of the Opposition, which I am bound to consider, that he thought that course would be inconvenient. I have accordingly abandoned that course and consented that the Colonial Vote shall be the first. The result may be that we shall not get the other Votes, or else have to sit up very late to get them. I hope the House will second me in getting those uncontroversial Votes, and in thus diminishing the

number of Votes outstanding before we come to the final day. I am asked whether we have any suggestion to make with regard to a reform of the rule. I think the rule as now set out is one which has already met with a general meed of approval, and I do not think the House will consent to abandon it; but I will consult the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of the Treasury, and I think it might be possible to carry out the suggestion of a Committee which sat on this subject in 1888 and to alter the forms of the Estimates so as to diminish the number of Votes to be taken. I believe that would be a convenient course, and if it met with the general assent of the House, or with the assent of a large number of Members, I think we should find it easier to get through the Estimates more smoothly next session. Other suggestions have been made, and I have adumbrated some of them, but I doubt whether they have received general approval. The House will not readily, I think, consent to alter the rule which says that Supply must be concluded within a fixed time, and that, roughly, it must be taken once a week. I appeal to the hon. Gentlemen in all parts of the House who have this rule and all that depends upon it at heart to assist in obtaining as many Votes as possible before the last day on which Supply can be discussed.

*MR. BUCHANAN: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the suggestion of the Committee in 1888 to diminish the number of Votes in Supply did not meet with entire approval, and it was resolved that it could not be carried out until sanctioned by the Committee of Public Accounts?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am not prepared to say that was not so, but I would remind the hon. Member that that was before the new rules of Supply came into force.

*SIR U. KAY - SHUTTLEWORTH (Lancashire, Clitheroe): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the whole subject of the number of Votes was referred to the Public Accounts Committee, who adopted a modified plan which did considerably reduce the number of Votes, and its decision was unanimously accepted by the House of Commons?

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): Has the First Lord of the Treasury anything to say with regard to the business for next week?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I hope that to-morrow I may be able to give the right hon. Gentleman some indication regarding the business next week.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Is there any intention of holding a Saturday sitting?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No.

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester): Will the right hon. Gentleman say what his hopes are as to the Lords Lunacy Bill?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Very small.

MR. MCKENNA (Monmouthshire, N.): When does the right hon. Gentleman propose to take the Indian Budget?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I suppose the Indian Budget will, as usual, be taken on the day the Committee stage of the Appropriation Bill is put down.

EAST INDIA REVENUE ACCOUNTS.

Ordered, That the several accounts and papers which have been presented to the House in this session of Parliament relating to the revenues of India be referred to the consideration of a Committee of the Whole House.

Resolved, That this House will upon Monday resolve itself into the said Committee.—(*Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*)

NAVY AND ARMY EXPENDITURE, 1897-8.

Committee to consider the Savings and Deficiencies upon Navy and Army Grants for 1897-8, and the temporary sanction obtained from the Treasury by the Navy and Army Departments to the Expenditure not provided for in the Grants for that year, To-morrow.

Ordered, that the Appropriation Accounts for the Navy and Army Departments, which were presented upon the 15th day and the 13th day of February last respectively be referred to the Committee.—(*Mr. Hanbury.*)

PUBLIC WORKS LOANS (REMISSION OF DEBTS.)

Committee to consider of authorising the Remission of certain Debts due to the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland in pursuance of any Act of the present session relating to Public Works Loans (Queen's Recommendation signified), upon Monday next.—(*Mr. Hanbury.*)

AGED DESERVING POOR.

Report from the Select Committee, with Minutes of Evidence and an Appendix, brought up, and read; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 296.)

ECCLESIASTICAL ASSESSMENTS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Order for Committee read, and discharged; Bill withdrawn.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON ACT (1898) AMENDMENT BILL.

With an Amendment.

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL BILL.

DARWEN CORPORATION BILL.

With Amendments.

COLONIAL LOANS BILL.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS-BEACH, Bristol, W.): In asking leave to introduce a Bill to authorise certain public loans to certain colonies or places, I have to point out that for more than a year there has been a Bill before the House, under the title of the Colonial Loans Fund Bill, for the purpose of establishing a fund similar to the Local Loans Fund, out of which loans may be made by separate Bills to Crown colonies. I was sanguine we might be able not only to pass that Bill in the present session, but also a Bill which my right hon. friend the First Lord described as a daughter Bill authorising certain loans out of the Colonial Loans Fund; but, unfortunately, for some reasons which I find it rather difficult to understand, a good deal of opposition to the Colonial Loans Fund Bill has manifested itself in certain quarters of the House.

It is a Bill which does nothing more than provide certain machinery for making loans, and itself authorises no loan whatever; but in making inquiries I gather it is felt to be a new departure of considerable importance; and the proposed Amendments to it are such that it is perfectly obvious that it would be impossible to pass the measure during the limited time that remains of the present session as well as another measure authorising loans to certain colonies. The Bill, as I have said, has been before Parliament more than a year, and, on account of the probability of early legislation, the Crown Agents for the colonies, who have long been entrusted with the issue of loans on behalf of the Crown colonies, have withheld issuing loans for more than a year and a half in the hope of their being provided through the machinery of the Colonial Loans Fund Bill. The result is that there is now a considerable accumulation of such loans. These loans cannot now be issued in the ordinary way, or the market would be glutted. Therefore, although the Government are very reluctantly obliged to say they are unable to proceed this session with the Colonial Loans Fund Bill, I now ask leave to introduce a daughter Bill, substituting only for the purpose of those particular loans the Local Loans Fund as the source from which the money shall be provided. The Bill which I now propose contains a list of loans amounting to a total sum of £3,351,000. I may say briefly that there are loans, already announced, to Barbados and St. Vincent to aid them in meeting the damage done by the hurricane. Then there are loans to Cyprus for irrigation, the construction of a light railway, and the repair of the harbour at Famagusta; to the Malay States, for the construction of railways to connect existing lines which have proved largely remunerative; to the four West African colonies, for harbour works at Accra and Old Calabar, and for railways in the Gold Coast, Lagos, and Sierra Leone, parts of which have already been constructed, and show every indication of a very considerable traffic; to Jamaica, for sanitary improvements and waterworks at Kingston, and for completing the railway and providing it with sufficient rolling stock to deal with the existing traffic; also in aid of revenue and for arrears of interest to the railway debenture holders; to Trinidad, for improving the harbour and pier, with which

Sir M. Hicks-Beach.

the Government railways are connected, and a small sum of £52,000 for public works and roads in Mauritius and the Seychelles. The maximum amount to be lent in each case and its object will be stated in the schedule to the Bill. It will rest with the Treasury, in concert with the Secretary for the Colonies, to decide in each case the rate of interest to be charged and the period for repayment. But the Bill provides that the rate of interest shall in no case be less than $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., and the term of repayment not longer than fifty years, according to the purposes of the loan. The Treasury will not concede in any case better terms to a colony than are given to local authorities in the United Kingdom, and in some cases, at any rate, they ought to pay more. Of course, before any loan is sanctioned the colony to which it is to be made will have to provide, to the satisfaction of the Treasury, for meeting the payments for interest and sinking fund of the loan. That describes the Bill I ask leave to introduce, and I need hardly add that any further explanation desired will be given in its future stages.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): From the right hon. Gentleman's description of it the Bill appears to be of a complicated character. Are we to understand that these are all Crown Agents' loans and not new loans undertaken by the right hon. Gentleman or under his supervision or authority? Even so they are numerous, and the House knows so little about them that I think to introduce a large and varied programme of financial procedure within sound of the knell of the session is a rather unusual proceeding. Because this Bill takes the place of another which was very much contested, the right hon. Gentleman must not expect that it will simplify matters too much. I myself am afraid it will be subjected to such a degree of discussion that the prospect of its passing into law—unless it proves much simpler than we imagine—will not be very bright.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: There are only two clauses in it.

COLONIAL LOANS.

Bill to authorise certain public Loans to certain Colonies or places, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer and Mr. Hanbury.

COLONIAL LOANS BILL.

"To authorise certain public Loans to certain Colonies or places," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 294.]

EXPIRING LAWS CONTINUANCE.

Bill to continue various Expiring Laws, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Hanbury and Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.

EXPIRING LAWS CONTINUANCE BILL.

"To continue various Expiring Laws," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 295.]

ROYAL NIGER COMPANY BILL.

Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N): I cannot allow this Bill to be read the third time without making a few observations upon it. I will only detain the House for one minute. In 1897 the dividend paid on the stock of the Royal Niger Company amounted to £29,620 16s., or 6 per cent.; in 1898 the dividend was exactly the same; in 1899, according to the statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the dividend was still 6 per cent. In 1897 the £10 shares in the company stood in the market at £10 per share. In 1898 these shares had gone up to £14; in 1899 the same shares are quoted in the market at from £19 to £21, or actually double the amount they were two years ago. In other words the market price of half a million stock has increased to a million. What has been the new factor to explain this sudden rise in the price of the shares? No new factor has been vouchsafed to this House beyond the following—that this year the Government, a

member of which is a shareholder, have been negotiating with the company the terms of the compensation for the abrogation of the company's charter. The result of these negotiations is that the Government are paying back to the company the whole of their capital plus a bonus of £100,000, and at the same time are relieving the company of liabilities amounting to £24,000 a year for administration, while still leaving the company the whole of their trading profits.

MR. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.): There are one or two observations which I should like to make on this Bill before it passes the Third Reading. They have nothing to do with the financial aspect of the question, and, for my part, I do not feel that I am fully able to judge of the terms made by Her Majesty's Government. On the whole, the company has deserved well of the country, and its administrative conduct can be pointed to with some pride. I should like, however, to have seen the Colonial Secretary present, because the question I wish to ask relates to the future administration of the country, and not to the financial proposals of the Bill. There were two questions to which I particularly directed attention at the time of the Second Reading, viz., the importation of spirits into the Niger territory and the status of slavery. and I rise to suggest that the Colonial Secretary should follow the example of the company, and abolish slavery both in Southern and Northern Nigeria; and that he should also give an assurance that proper restrictions will be placed upon the importation of spirits into those territories. With regard to the latter question, I believe it has been stated more than once that the cry got up against the company for maintaining a monopoly was largely due to the interests of spirit exporters in this country, and that it was because of the policy pursued by the Niger Company in discouraging and prohibiting, as far as they could, the importation of bad spirits, that a feeling was engendered against them. We want to be sure that the arrangements made by the Colonial Office will be as effective in diminishing the importation of spirits as the regulations of the Niger Company have been. The Colonial Secre-

tary has told us that in Northern Nigeria itself the importation of spirits is still to be prohibited; but he would not say, in reply to a question of mine, whether it was to be prohibited by legislation or administrative decree or otherwise. The statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer introduces some doubt in my mind, because I gather there is to be a customs duty of 3s. a gallon, and spirits will come from territories adjoining as well as from the part of Nigeria that belongs to ourselves. I should like to know what provision is to be made against the importation of spirits from French and German possessions. The Colonial Secretary told us he was engaged in considering a large number of ordinances which were to be made for the purpose of carrying out the proper prohibition of the importation of spirits in Northern Nigeria and generally for the regulation of tariff. I hope those will be laid upon the Table of the House when they have been settled between the Colonial Secretary and the Colonial authorities, because I am bound to state that the neutral zone about which he spoke is one which I find it very difficult to understand. I cannot comprehend how it is to operate in keeping out spirits. We were told that within the neutral zone spirits might be sold but not carried through. I think the probability would be that the inhabitants of Northern Nigeria who wanted the spirits would all flock into this neutral zone, and it would become rather a zone of hard drinking. There was another question I put to the Colonial Secretary to which he did not reply. I asked whether the Niger Company had been able effectively to control the importation of spirits into that territory, not merely by imposing a higher duty than neighbouring colonies, but also by the fact that they imposed a heavy annual licence upon all those who sold spirits in the territory. I understand that an annual sum of £100 had to be paid for the licence. In that way the Niger Company knew very well that the man to whom they entrusted the sale of these spirits was a person upon whom they could rely, or if he failed in his duty they could prevent a renewal of the licence. I asked whether under the new system of government that kind of licensing system would be continued, but no reply was given. Seeing the success which attended that system, it would be of the greatest convenience to know

before this Bill passes whether it is to be continued. There are wider questions connected with the action taken by the House in this matter than the mere question of the amount of money to be paid to this company, and it is the duty of this House to see that as far as possible proper restrictions are put upon those two evils, viz., the continued existence of slavery and the importation of spirits. I think it would be a great satisfaction to the House if before the Debate concludes we could get some assurance upon these points.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): I think the Chancellor of the Exchequer came to the conclusion yesterday evening that the company had made a somewhat good bargain. He did not say so, but in these matters we have not absolutely to hear what a Minister says, but to observe the effect of arguments upon his countenance. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has a most expressive countenance, and I think he fully realised that we were justified in discussing the matter, and that the company had got the best of it. In fact, the Chancellor of the Exchequer almost admitted it. He started the discussion upon a business basis, contending that what we were giving to the company was only right and legitimate and proper from a business standpoint. The Chancellor of the Exchequer was driven from that position, and had to fall back upon generalities about countries having to be exceedingly generous in dealing with companies, and about these gentlemen connected with the company having been such eminent patriots, and having done such very great service to the country at large, that we ought not to look too closely into figures. I venture, with all respect, to entirely differ from the Chancellor of the Exchequer in that matter. I think it is a matter of pure business when we take over a company of this sort, and if we want to have an item for patriotism let us put it down at the bottom of the account—so much for assets, so much for so and so, and so much for “moral and intellectual” advantages, after the manner of President Kruger, that have accrued to the country from the action of the company.

Mr. Buchanan.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EX-CHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS-BEACH, Bristol, W.): Damages.

MR. LABOUCHERE: Well, I should like to claim damages, moral and intellectual, taking it from the Chancellor of the Exchequer's standpoint. I confess that the gentlemen connected with this company are very different from the gang that had to do with the South African business; but, after all, they are business men, and I apprehend that they are actuated by the usual feeling of a human being when he enters into business, viz., to acquire money. Certainly, these gentlemen have shown themselves exceedingly astute and clever in the matter of making money; they have shown themselves particularly clever in the accounts which they have submitted to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and in the way in which they have hoodwinked that most able financier. It is desirable that we should understand precisely what is proposed to be done, and I have jotted down what really is the amount we are giving and for what we are giving it. The capital of the company consists of £443,350 in shares. This capital is made up of a sum of £195,000 fully paid up shares, which were given to a French company for their assets; by £115,000 for the goodwill of that company; by issue of shares £133,000, but of this £133,000 they were returned 30 per cent. in the shape of certain bonds which they could sell in the market. Consequently these patriotic gentlemen themselves laid out of their own money a sum of less than £100,000. They then obtained a charter. The charter granted them certain privileges, and against these privileges they were bound to pay all the administrative and police expenditure. They at once commenced to keep two accounts, one administrative and the other trading. The administrative accounts show that they lost on an average about £20,000 per annum, the loss on the last year, 1897, being £22,000. The trading accounts show a very different result. From their profits they paid 6 per cent. upon their shares, and from the 1897 trading account it will be seen that, after deducting what is owing to them, they have, inclusive of their lands and buildings, which they retain, a sum of £416,317, made up in part of cash at bankers, in part of bills receivable, and very largely

in part of goods for sale that they have either in the country, or on the seas going to the country. The charter not only did not give these people a monopoly, but it specifically declared in the fourteenth clause that they were to have no monopoly. That clause was a reproduction of the conditions we had agreed to in the final act of the Conference of Berlin. We had pledged ourselves absolutely not to give any species of monopoly; we had specifically declared that the Niger was to remain open to the navigation and the trade not only of the citizens of this country, but of the citizens of every other country. The company, however, managed to get behind this definite statement of the fourteenth clause, and by a system of sharp practice they did establish a monopoly. That is shown by the fact that according to the last balance-sheet the company paid in customs duties for exports and imports £111,775, while all other companies and all other British citizens paid £260. In fact, it is admitted by the Chancellor of the Exchequer that they established a monopoly. That is the position of the company. What are we paying to the company? We first of all issue a loan, and I have never yet discovered how the loan is to be converted into cash. This loan is, to a great extent, simply a mode of keeping books. The company call it a loan, but it is simply a balance in their hands from profits acquired, upon which they charge interest to themselves and pay the interest to themselves. All that has been issued to the public of this loan has been issued without any cash payments, and I find that the shareholders received 30 per cent. of this loan against no species of payment. If you take the two sums, that is, the amount in the hands of the company and the amount of the 30 per cent. which was given on this £443,000, I think it will be found that they issued none of this loan to the public, and they have received no cash in regard to this loan. There is a clause that they are to be paid back in 1938, and so excellent is this loan that we propose to give them a bonus of 20 per cent. We give £115,000 for a portion of certain administrative assets belonging to the company, although the total assets are valued by the company at only £113,000. We are actually giving more than the company has told the shareholders all their assets are worth. Take the item of ships.

My hon. friend, the Member for Gateshead, has told us that the company took care to keep the ships that are of any value, and what they sell us are a few old hulks. No doubt we could prove the same thing in regard to other assets. I think the Chancellor of the Exchequer will accept the fact that we only get half or two-thirds of the assets, and the company seem to have had the pick of the assets. The next item is a sum of £150,000 given for any benefit the company may have in certain lands, mining rights, treaties, administrative stations, and wharves, and compensation for the dislocation of business. I have been anxious to get to know what this land can be, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer was surprised to find that it was not land which they possessed at all. It seems to me a very extraordinary thing that they should get a right to the land on both sides of the river for £500. With regard to these lands it has been shown that the company have simply obtained some vague rights of pre-emption, and they have the right to purchase the land against any other individual or company. I may point out that there is a very wide difference between the right of pre-emption and a title to the land itself, and if we buy the land we shall have to pay for it, the only difference being that we have a right over other people. As to the mining rights, the main one is the right of mining in the Empire of Sokoto. This remarkable treaty with the Emperor of Sokoto is not put in, and I gather that really nothing is paid down to the Emperor. We pay him some £300 or £400 a year for recognising us as the paramount power, but I can hardly suppose that the Emperor gave these mining rights to the company as a present, because the company assert that the value of these rights is £1,000 sterling. If they did obtain these rights as a present, they undoubtedly robbed that prince in the most audacious and scandalous fashion. What does "dislocation of business" mean? The company obtained a monopoly, but they would not have been able to continue that monopoly, and we are literally paying for a monopoly which the company have acquired in defiance of the terms of their charter. The fact of the charter having been broken for so many years would give us the right to abrogate the charter, instead of which the Government choose rather

to pay this unjust sum of money. There is an amount of £300,000 which represents sums advanced in excess of revenue from customs. The revenue from customs was not sufficient to cover the administrative expenditure, and so they took the money from the trading account. The company had got the charter and certain rights, which seem to have been remunerative, and therefore they were bound to pay the administrative expenses. But because they choose to make two accounts they come and tell us that we have to pay them back all this money in excess. They cannot plead *in forma pauperis*, because during the whole time they have had this monopoly, which they got by sharp practice, they have been able to make a large amount of money for themselves. What do we get for this large sum of money? We are simply buying the privilege of paying a deficit each year in the administrative expenditure. We take over the administrative expenditure, and leave the trading business to the company. The cost is £22,000 per annum, and that is a sum we are asked for. I maintain that instead of paying this sum we ought to charge the company something for doing this for them and relieving them of the burden. While this Bill has been under discussion a Supplementary Estimate has been put in by the Colonial Secretary, in which he asks for the sum of £75,000 per annum. The Colonial Secretary told us plainly that he did not anticipate that this would be a good paying concern for some time, and he seemed to think that it might be a good paying concern if he diverted all the trade from Europe to these inland territories which passed along our seaboard. That may be or may not be, but we know that when trade has got into one particular line it takes years to divert it into another channel, and it is a very off chance that this country will ever pay us, or pay even its own administrative expenses. The result of these negotiations is shown in the price of the company's shares. It is a positive fact that in 1897 the £10 shares of this company were quoted at £10. At that time the company had strong friends in the House of Commons, and the public thought it would be a good thing to buy the shares. At the present time those £10 shares are quoted at £20, that is to say, the shares have gone up 100 per cent. No great divi-

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dends have been paid during that time, but what has occurred? Why nothing has occurred, except these negotiations and this agreement with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and that has enhanced the price. Suppose anybody were to come forward to buy up any of the gas or water companies in London? If the shares were at a certain price before the negotiations commenced, and if the result of those negotiations were that the shares went up 100 per cent., would anybody say that that was a fair and legitimate price? They would undoubtedly say that we are paying 100 per cent. more than the public believe those shares to be worth. It is, therefore, obvious that we are paying too much, and this is all the more so because we are leaving to the company practically all the valuable assets which they possessed before. It is said that we ought not to take private property without paying its actual value, but what happens in England? Suppose you want to bring in a Bill giving power to the London County Council to buy certain houses. The value of those houses is estimated, and the owner is given 10 per cent. for dislocation of business. Now if the value of this company's assets had been fairly and legitimately estimated, and it was proposed to pay them 10 per cent. over and above that amount for dislocation of business, I should not have complained. But by all this hanky-panky business of buying up excess of expenditure on administration over what is received by the customs, we are really paying, not twice as much as we ought to pay, but almost three times as much. If you really calculate the thing it amounts to this, that we are relieving this company of the obligations they have had up to the present, and we are allowing them to retain nearly the whole of their property. The hon. Member for East Aberdeenshire referred to the liquor question. It seems to me we ought to have some undertaking with reference to the laws regulating the liquor traffic. We were given to understand that the great aim and object of the British people was to prevent liquor getting into the hands of the natives, and that its sale would be prohibited altogether were it not that the frontiers of other countries adjoined our territory, and that liquor would be smuggled in and sold at a cheaper price. The Colonial secretary has, however, thrown an

entirely new light on what he intends to be the policy of the Government. He told us that it was absolutely necessary in order to obtain trade in that part of the world to pay a certain proportion of the exchange for the products of the country in liquor, and that that was the reason why he could not put an end to the sale of liquor altogether. That throws a new light on the question. It appears that in this valuable property trade is only to be obtained by providing these unfortunate natives with a sufficient supply of liquor to enable them to get drunk. That is a new and very serious view of the matter. The hon. Member for East Aberdeenshire asked also what was to be done with regard to Northern Nigeria. Liquor is to be imported into Southern Nigeria, but it is to be forbidden altogether in Northern Nigeria. There may be a zone between the two in which liquor might be sold though not stored, but it is certain to dribble into Northern Nigeria from Southern Nigeria, just as it dribbles in from the possessions of other Powers. It is said that the natives of Sokoto, being Mohammedans, do not want liquor. Well, we are supposed to be Christians in this country, and yet a great many Christians drink a great deal too much. I have been in Mohammedan countries myself, and I know that a great many Mohammedans when they get a chance drink to their hearts' content. But all these natives are not Mohammedans. The Mohammedans settled in the country as the ruling race, but the mass of the natives belong to another religion and they would not be adverse, if they got the chance, to taking drink. If we are told that our only chance of maintaining the trade of Northern Nigeria is to be able to have a sort of currency in gin, where is trade to come from in Sokoto if you cannot pay in the same currency? I think the Colonial Secretary forgot that, and that he ought before this Bill passes to give us a clear and explicit statement with regard to this liquor question, and also a clear and explicit statement on the question of slavery. The Colonial Secretary has just said that the legal status of slavery would not be recognised in the territories to be taken over. These territories contain thirty millions of human beings, fully one half of whom are at the present moment slaves. How are you going to convey to these

people that the legal status of slavery no longer exists? They know perfectly well that if they will not work, or if they run away and are brought back, they will be punished. What is the good of telling them that you do not recognise the status of slavery, though you recognise slavery in the sense that one man is made to work for another, and that if he runs away he will be punished? I think the Colonial Secretary ought to tell us that he is contemplating some plan to do away to a large extent with slavery, and not content himself with a mere pious opinion that the legal status of slavery will not be recognised. The Chancellor of the Exchequer attacked us yesterday because, as he said, we did not realise the advantage of taking over this empire of Sokoto. I should be very glad if we were without it. It seems to me we have a sufficient number of subject races to employ most of our means and resources. I by no means welcome as a delightful thing the fact that we are taking over thirty millions of natives, who will, I suppose, be called British subjects. I agree that under the circumstances in which we are placed, seeing the dangerous effect of retaining the charter in the hands of the company, and seeing that the charter has been violated, it is less dangerous that we should hold those territories direct rather than that they should be left in the hands of the company; but that is no reason why we should pay an excessive sum for them. It is on the financial aspect that we have attacked this Bill. We do not recognise the doctrine that we should act not on business lines, but on generous lines. We do not recognise that men should be paid, not for what they have got, but for their excellent patriotic intentions, views, and desires. I have a great deal of sympathy with the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I believe he does his best to get the best bargain he can; but the fact that the Chancellor of the Exchequer himself had to succumb—because he has himself almost admitted that we are paying too much on a fair commercial estimate, and he asks us to act on a vague generous principle—shows the influence which companies have in this House. We had an instance of that in the Telephone Company the other day, and here is another instance now. This system of lobbying is sapping the House of Commons, and companies expect to

get special terms because they have members in this House and in the Government. I think it is very desirable that the attention of the country should be called to this matter, and I consider that my friends and myself have done good service in making it clear to the country that these gentlemen connected with the Chartered Company are very powerful in this House and in the Government, and that they have got not only quite as much as they ought to have got, but more than twice as much as the selling price of their concern.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I am glad my hon. and gallant friend has expressed his intention of taking a Division against the Third Reading. The question now before us is whether we are going to vote against the Bill, the general principle of which most of us agree with, or whether we are going to consent to what it is evident to everyone in the House is a monstrous waste of public money. We are placed in this position, that we cannot get rid of the power of this company without consenting to this enormous amount of blackmail, for which not a shadow of justification has been given by the Government. If it were in my power to achieve it I would prefer to kill the Bill, and wait for another year, when perhaps the Government, benefiting by their experience and by the opinions expressed in this House, might make a better bargain. It cannot be too often repeated that all these patriotic men have risked is £160,000 in cash and no more, because all the rest of the stock of the company is not stock for which cash has been paid. What is the state of the company? They have paid for ten years under the charter dividends varying from 6 per cent. to 7 per cent., not on the £160,000 that they risked, but on a capital inflated to £550,000 by the issue of scrip; and after paying nearly 7 per cent. on this inflated stock for ten years they are now in possession by their own confession of assets over and above the assets which they propose to transfer to the Government amounting to nearly £500,000. Where is the hon. Member in this House who would not gladly embark in an enterprise which did so well as that? It is nothing short of an outrage that the

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taxpayers of this country should be called upon to pay £850,000 into the coffers of a company which has done so extremely and remarkably well ; and in my humble judgment, the claim to be generous might be met by half the sum provided in the Bill. It is rather remarkable that although the Chancellor of the Exchequer proposes to deal with this whole matter from a business point of view, and on business principles, he should argue that we ought not to be niggardly on great questions of Empire, and that we should approach them not from a business point of view, but from a patriotic point of view. His argument was that these men risked their capital primarily for the extension of the British Empire, and not for any return in money. I have said nothing against Sir George Goldie or any of the directors. They may be most high-minded men. I see nothing to be ashamed of and nothing inconsistent with honour and honesty in their risking their money in order to secure dividends. That is perfectly fair ; but they must stand on one leg or the other, and if their action is to be put down to patriotic motives, they should be content with small dividends, or no dividends at all. But if it is to be put down to ordinary human motives, and if they are acting as men of business, then they cannot claim that they are acting from motives of patriotism. I put a very clear test to this patriotism. What did the Chancellor of the Exchequer say ? One of the main things over which the dispute has arisen has been on the shadowy mineral rights, which may be of enormous value, but which may be of no value whatever. The Chancellor of the Exchequer himself declares that it is out of the power of any human being to form the faintest rough estimate of what these mineral rights are worth, or whether they will be worth absolutely nothing. They may be in the end another Rand or Transvaal. But this patriot, Sir George Goldie, who risked his money primarily not for paltry dividends, but for the honour and glory of this great Empire, when he was dealing with the Chancellor of the Exchequer asked for a million of money for part of these mineral rights. Oh, what an ungenerous Chancellor of the Exchequer who refused to come to terms with this noble patriot who risked his money primarily for the honour and glory of the British Empire and the

British flag, who thought only in a minor degree of a return for his money—but who modestly asked for a million of money, and is staved off with the small sum of £115,000 ! Was ever a patriot so badly treated ? I was really doing the Chancellor of the Exchequer an injustice, because if the mineral rights are worth nothing he gives £115,000 for them, and if they prove to be worth something he will have to pay enormous sums in royalties. So that the patriot did very well after all. These gentlemen may be all very patriotic ; I do not deny it. But so far as concerns the starting of this African Company, they did it for the same purpose as men start a gas company or a gold mining company. They saw a good thing and they secured a monopoly of the trade of this district, in spite of the terms of the charter, and they have made great profits out of it. There is another point to which I wish once more to draw attention—and that is the accounts which have been submitted and which are most unsatisfactory. There was a most extraordinary change introduced into the method of keeping these accounts the moment the negotiations with the Government were entered into. In 1896, on the profit and loss account of the company the sum of £1,665 was carried to the general reserve account, which was almost the first start of this reserve fund. In the following year £25,963 was carried to the general reserve account, and in the year following that again £39,000 was carried to the general reserve fund, while only £36,000 was distributed in dividends. What is the meaning of that ? Finally, last year more than half of the total income is carried to the general reserve account. We can only place one interpretation on such a proceeding—namely, that the company was doing so splendidly that they became ashamed of paying the dividends they had earned, and they were afraid that while they were pretending to lose money the public opinion of this country would revolt against the absurdity of paying £865,000 for relieving them of the expense of administration. That is the last word I have got to say in regard to the accounts. But there is another point. We are called upon by this Bill to pay the company a sum of £300,000 for the accumulated deficit on the administration accounts extending over ten years. How did that deficit

arise? The administration account is separate from the trading account, and was intended to be supported under the charter by the duties on exports and imports charged on the Niger river. When there was found to be a deficit on the administration account all that the company had to do to balance it was to raise the duties, but as they were the only traders on the river the result would have been to slightly diminish trading profits. They kept the customs duties low in order to increase their trading profits and pay higher dividends.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: The company were forbidden by the Foreign Office to increase the duties.

MR. DILLON: Well, the Foreign Office has a good deal to answer for. Of course, the Bill will be passed in spite of all we can do. This is not the first time in the history of this House—even in the recent history of the House—when a small body of members have resisted Bills of this kind, and their action was justified in a few years' time. I am old enough to remember—though I was not in the House then—when ten or twelve Irish Members, backed up by the right hon. Member for Bodmin, who, I am sorry to say, supports this Bill, resisted the Bill for the annexation of the Transvaal, for a whole night. And yet within a few years the whole country recognised that the small minority of ten Members was right, and that the large majority which supported the Government was wrong. I am not convinced, by all that has been said, that this chartered company's gift to the British nation is good rather than evil. I view with the greatest possible anxiety the recklessness with which the Government of this country undertakes to annex vast territories, largely unexplored, most unjustly obtained, and inhabited by multitudes of people about whose welfare it would be impossible for us to take any cognisance. Whatever I felt on this subject in the earlier stages of this Bill has been enormously increased in looking over the Papers which were issued yesterday in regard to war and disturbances in the territory of Sierra Leone. These papers show that in that district, which has been for a long time

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under the direct administration of the Colonial Office, lives has been sacrificed, and almost whole territories have been devastated, and dreadful confusion created by an unjust and cruel hut tax. And we are now told that, in spite of the Special Commissioners' Report, the imposition of that tax will be persevered with, no matter what the people think, and what the consequences may be. Even in view of the wisdom and humanity which have been shown in the administration of the neighbouring territory of Lagos, I have no great confidence in the enormous improvement in the civilisation and condition of the people which we are told will follow the administration by the Colonial Office of these vast territories. While I base my opposition to this Bill chiefly and mainly on the monstrous sum we are asked to vote, and while I will vote against what I consider to be a gross levy of blackmail on the British taxpayer, I am also strongly opposed to these outrageous extensions of territory of the Empire, without any corresponding realisation on the part of the Government of their duty to these unhappy people who are passing under their sway. I conclude by protesting in the strongest possible way against the introduction at this period of the session of a Supplementary Estimate for £75,000. The first evidence of the value of the great property we are acquiring is that we have to vote £75,000 to keep it going for the next eight months! But it is introduced at a period of the session when the Colonial Office has made it absolutely sure that no opportunity would be given us to discuss the Vote. Finally, I ask the right hon. Gentleman for some information as to what measures the Government intend to take to protect themselves from being placed in the position of having to pay any claims that may be made by France against the company after they have parted with all this amount of money.

DR. CLARK (Caithness): I shall vote with my hon. friend against this Bill, but not on the grounds which have been urged by my hon. friend. I quite agree that the price to be given is large; but if the price had been larger and we had got rid of the company, there would have been something to be said for it. But the monopoly will remain, and the malign influence of the company will remain for

ninety-nine years, although we are spending £865,000 in buying out their goodwill. From the time when an astute Scotsman went down and syndicated the West African merchants and got them into one pool, and then came here for the Royal Charter to keep everybody else from the Niger region, we have been hoodwinked. The 13th and 14th sections of the Charter have been entirely disregarded. They prevented anyone coming into the region, and they have used their monopoly in a way that caused a civil war not very long ago. And that monopoly of the whole trade, which from 1885 until now has been brought about by Mr. Miller's action, will continue, for no other persons will be able to get their hand into the Niger territory trade. Not only that, but for the next ninety-nine years the growth and development of the colony will be seriously interfered with by the terms come to by the Chancellor of the Exchequer as to mining royalties. You are compelled to enforce a royalty upon all mining within the territory. We only used to enforce it on the royal metals, gold and silver, but now it is to be enforced on all, and that royalty you have to divide with the company for ninety-nine years, and by the contract you are entering into you will not be able to control your fiscal duties for ninety-nine years. The policy of the Government will militate against the development of the country. We all know that the growth of the Transvaal is due to the absence of the imposition of any royalties at all, and when royalties are imposed it will prevent the development of the mining industry. I shall not now discuss this question further, but will content myself with voting against the Third Reading, because I believe the policy of the Government would be as prejudicial to the well-being of the country in the future as the proceedings of the company have been in the past.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: I do not wish to be considered lacking in courtesy to hon. Members by declining to make any reply to them, but I really think I could almost refer them to what I said yesterday with regard to the proposition we make. I quite admit that hon. Members below the gangway opposite regard the Bill from a totally different point of view to the Government, but they have done nothing

more to-night than reiterate what has been already said with what I might almost call tedious repetition. No fresh argument whatever has been raised. The hon. Member for East Aberdeenshire is in favour of the principle of the Bill, and of the revocation of the charter of the company, and he also attached great importance to the measures which the company have taken with regard to the legal status of slavery and the sale of liquor. The company is entitled to every credit for the policy it has pursued with regard to those matters. The hon. Member, however, so mistrusts the authority of the Crown, that he evidently believes that both as regards the legal status of slavery and the sale of liquor, the condition of the territories will be worse in the future than in the past. He cannot understand by what means the sale of liquor can be prohibited, or in what way the administration of the country can be improved by the action of the Government. There are possibilities of administration which are, perhaps, beyond the comprehension of the hon. Member. At any rate, I can assure the hon. Gentleman that Her Majesty's Government have both these matters thoroughly at heart, and have every desire to continue the policy which has hitherto been pursued by the company. The hon. Members for Northampton, Caithness, and East Mayo have repeated their attacks upon me with regard to the price to be paid to the company. The hon. Gentlemen regard the matter from the point of view from which I have not been able to regard it. The hon. Member for Northampton tells us that the company has got the better of us, but I can only say it was never my belief that it was my duty, on behalf of the country, to endeavour to get the better of the company in this matter. I always thought my duty was to act fairly as between the taxpayers and the company, with the full understanding that the company has deserved well of the country, having regard to the fact that but for the action of the company the country would not be in possession of these territories. The hon. Member for East Mayo attacked the motives of those who founded the company, and who carried on its proceedings, and he declines to attribute to anybody else those patriotic motives which he claims for himself. I do not think I need

trouble the House with any further observations in reply to such statements, and I hope that the House will now read the Bill a third time.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland): I only rise to call the right hon. Gentleman's attention to the fact that he has not answered the main question which was put by my hon. friend the Member for East Mayo, as to what he is going to do with reference to the disputes between the company and France. That

is a matter which I certainly think requires some explanation.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: I do not see that the hon. Gentleman can ask me either to repeat or extend what I have already said on the subject.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 181; Noes, 81. (Division List, No. 309.)

AYES.

Aird, John
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold, Alfred
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barry, Rt. Hon. A. H. Smith- (Hunts
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Beckett, Ernest William
Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Birrell, Augustine
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bolitho, Thomas Bedford
Brassey, Albert
Brookfield, A. Montagu
Bullard, Sir Harry
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lanes.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crombie, John William
Curzon, Viscount
Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
Denny, Colonel
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doughty, George

Sir M. Hicks-Beach.

Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, William Theodore
Drucker, A.
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
FitzWygram, General Sir F.
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans)
Gilliat, John Saunders
Goldsworthy, Major General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. Geo.'s
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hamond, Sir Chas. (Newcastle)
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Rbt. Wm.
Heaton, John Henniker
Hedderwick, Thomas Charles H.
Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Hoare, Ed. Brodie (Hampstead
Howard, Joseph
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kimber, Henry
Kinloch, Sir John G. Smyth
Knowles, Lees
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Corn
Lawrence, W. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lecky, Rt. Hon. Wm. Ed. H.
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Leighton, Stanley
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Sw'nsea.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverp'l)
Lorne, Marquess of
Lowe, Francis William
Lubbock, Rt. Hon. Sir John
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdonald, John Cumming

Maclure, Sir John William
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Crae, George
M'Killop, James
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Edward W. J.
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Milton, Viscount
Milward, Colonel Victor
Monk, Charles James
More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
Morrill, George Herbert
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Parkes, Ebenezer
Penn, John
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Priestley, Sir W. O. (Edin.)
Purvis, Robert
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Round, James
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Saunderson, Rt. Hon. Col. E. J.
Seely, Charles Hilton
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer, Ernest
Stanley, E. Jas. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Strauss, Arthur
Sutherland, Sir Thomas
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.)

Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Valentia, Viscount
Walton, J. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C.E. (Kent)
Whiteley, A. (Ashton-under-L.)

Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Joseph Powell. (Birm)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C.B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Thomas
Wylie, Alexander

Wyndham, George
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William Rhondda
Allen, W. (Newc.-under-Lyme)
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Bainbridge, Emerson
Balfour, Rt. Hon. J.B. (Clackin.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bilson, Alfred
Broadhurst, Henry
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Carmichael, Sir T. D. Gibson
Carvill, P. George Hamilton
Channing, Francis Allston
Clark, Dr. G.B. (Caithness-sh.)
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crilly, Daniel
Davitt, Michael
Dewar, Arthur
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Duckworth, James
Dunn, Sir William
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley

Griffith, Ellis J.
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Hazzell, Walter
Healy, Timothy M. (N. Lonth)
Holden, Sir Angus
Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)
Horniman, Frederick John
Jacoby, James Alfred
Joicey, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
Leng, Sir John
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Macaleese, Daniel
McEwan, William
McKenna, Reginald
Maddison, Fred.
Maden, John Henry
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans

O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Connor, J. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Reckitt, Harold James
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shaw, Chas. Edw. (Stafford)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Steadman, William Charles
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Wedderburn, Sir William
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
Wills, Sir William Henry
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Woods, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Pirie and Mr. Dillon.

NAVAL WORKS BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

(Mr. GRANT LAWSON, York, N.R.,
Thirsk, in the Chair.)

Clause 1 :—

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dun-
dee) : The Amendment which I rise to
propose is to leave out "three" in
Clause 1, page 1, line 8, and insert "two,"
reducing the sum proposed to be voted from
£3,100,000 to £2,100,000. The object
of this Amendment is to raise, in a
formal manner, the question which has
been discussed more than once on the
preceding stages of this Bill, and to
ensure that the scheme of naval works
shall be carried out under annual Bills, as
the original intention was, instead of
under biennial Bills, which is the scheme,
I understand, now favoured by the

Government. I have fixed upon the
figure of two millions as being one which
cannot unduly limit the power of expen-
diture of the Admiralty during the year,
but which will compel them to come to
Parliament for renewed authority at the
end of the year. The annual policy was
the signal plan upon which the whole of
the scheme of naval works was introduced
to the House of Commons four years
ago, when the question was more or
less discussed. At the Committee stage
of the proceedings in 1895, the noble
Lord who is now Secretary for
India proposed a plan of his own for
acquiring some kind of Parliamentary
control of an annual character. I have
looked into the proceedings, and I think
it will interest the House if I state what
they were. The noble Lord proposed
that the Admiralty should, at the close of
every financial year, cause to be made an
account showing, firstly, the total cost of
each work and the expenditure thereon ;
and, secondly, the period within which it
is proposed to complete such work ;
such account to be laid before Parliament.

Now, in dealing with this motion, I said :

"The course which the Government proposed to adopt was to introduce annually a Bill—not an auxiliary to any previous Bill, but a principal Bill, which would stand alone. In each annual Bill they (the Government) would give a schedule of progress showing the original estimate of the probable expenditure for the work up to the last day of the past financial year, the amount to be expended in the next financial year, and the amount required to complete the work. That procedure would supply all the particulars and information required, and would be much better, he thought, than the procedure suggested in the proposed new clause."

That proposal received the support of the right hon. Gentlemen opposite, who is now the First Lord of the Admiralty. He said, in answer to my suggestion :

"That would seem to be a very satisfactory arrangement, and I would ask the hon. Gentleman to consider whether he could not state in the schedule what works are commenced, how much would be required for the financial year, and also the amount required to complete."

I think, therefore, I am justified in saying that the principle of proceeding by way of annual Bills, instead of by a Bill covering a longer period, received, on that occasion, the support of the right hon. Gentleman, and I would ask him to bear that in mind now, in considering the proposal which I venture to make.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 8, to leave out the word 'three,' and insert the word 'two.'"—(*Mr. Edmund Robertson.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'three' stand part of the clause."

THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (*Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, King's Norton*): I am afraid we cannot accept the Amendment. It is perfectly true that the first Naval Works Bill was prepared as an annual Bill, and the two previous Bills were in-

tended to be annual, although the second has not had that effect. But we have had more experience than when the first Bill was drafted, and I do not agree with the opinion that an annual Bill is the most convenient arrangement from an administrative point of view. The Committee is aware of the great difficulties we have had in framing our estimates of the probable expenditure within the year. I hope that by giving ourselves greater time over which to spread our estimates we shall prove to have made a much more accurate calculation than in the past. That is the principal reason for the change we have introduced, and there is a subsidiary reason, that it is a great advantage, from an administrative point of view, that the works staff, and especially the higher officials, will not be occupied by drafting any Bill next year, but will be able to give undivided attention to the enormous works of which they have charge. The work thrown upon that staff has been heavy, and I would deprecate anything which would increase it considerably. The financial control of Parliament over naval expenditure will be amply secured in the ordinary way by the accounts being audited by the Exchequer and the Audit Department and submitted to the Public Accounts Committee, who will report upon them in the usual course. My right hon. friend the First Lord has already said that we will lay before the House next session in the form of a Return a statement of the expenditure of the current year.

SIR U. KAY-SHUTTLEWORTH (*Lancashire, Clitheroe*) said he was not quite satisfied with the answer of the right hon. Gentleman. He considered it would be much safer for Parliament to adhere to the old practice than to introduce the biennial system.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 168; Noes, 95. (*Division List, No. 310.*)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold, Alfred
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (*Leeds*)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barry, Rt. Hon. A. H. S. (*Hunts.*)
Barton, Dunbar Plunket

Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (*Bristol*)
Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bolitho, Thomas Bedford
Brassey, Albert
Brookfield, A. Montagu

Ballard, Sir Harry
Cavendish, B. F. (*N. Lanca.*)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbysh.*)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Hertford, Kent*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (*Birm.*)
Chamberlain, J. A. (*Worc'r*)
Charrington, Spencer

Mr. Edmund Robertson.

Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coddington, Sir William
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd)
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Curzon, Viscount
 Denny, Colonel
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Drucker, A.
 Elliot, Hon. Ralph Douglas A.
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
 Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manch'r)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzWygram, General Sir F.
 Fletcher, Sir Henry
 Flower, Ernest
 Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
 Garfit, William
 Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. George's)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
 Hamond, Sir Chas. (Newcastle)
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. W.
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
 Henderson, Alexander
 Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
 Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampst'd)

Howard, Joseph
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Kimber, Henry
 Knowles, Lees
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning-(Corn)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lecky, Rt. Hn. William E. H.
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Leighton, Stanley
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn-(Sw'n's A)
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 Maclure, Sir John William
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 M'Killop, James
 Malcolm, Ian
 Manners, Lord Edw. Wm. J.
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Midlemore, Jno. Throgmorton
 Milton, Viscount
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropsh.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
 Muntz, Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Penn, John
 Percy, Earl
 Pierpoint, Robert

Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Priestley, Sir W. Overend (Edin.)
 Purvis, Robert
 Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Renshaw, Charles Bine
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Rutherford, John
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Strauss, Arthur
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warde, Lt. Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Jos. Powell- (Birm.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. S.-
 Wrightson, Thomas
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrand and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allen, W. (Newc.-under-Lyme)
 Asher, Alexander
 Asquith, Rt. Hon. H. Henry
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. B. (Clackm.)
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Billson, Alfred
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Robert (Durham)
 Carmichael, Sir T. D. Gibson-
 Carvill, Patrick G. Hamilton
 Cayley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Colville, John
 Crilly, Daniel
 Crombie, John William
 Davitt, Michael
 Dewar, Arthur
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.

Duckworth, James
 Dunn, Sir William
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Fenwick, Charles
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Foster, Sir W. (Derby Co.)
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
 Hazell, Walter
 Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
 Hedderwick, Thos. Chas. H.
 Holden, Sir Angus
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kinloch, Sir J. George Smyth
 Labouchere, Henry

Lambert, George
 Langley, Batty
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
 Leng, Sir John
 Lloyd-George, David
 Lough, Thomas
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Crae, George
 M'Dermott, Patrick
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
 Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
 Morley, Chas. (Breckonshire)
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)
 Palmer, George Wm. (Reading)

Pirie, Duncan V.
 Price, Robert John
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
 Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarsh.)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)

Steadman, William Charles
 Strachey, Edward
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Walton, John L. (Leeds, S.)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer

Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wills, Sir William Henry
 Wilson, H. J. (York, W.R.)
 Woodall, William
 Woods, Samuel
TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Edmund Robertson and
 Sir Ughtred Kay-Shuttleworth.

SIR U. KAY-SHUTTLEWORTH: I am not sure whether it would not be more convenient to move the Amendment which I have placed on the Paper when we deal with the schedule. I desire by my Amendment to object to the dock at Bermuda.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think that ought to come on the schedule.

Question proposed, "That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill."

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs): I desire to move the omission of this clause, as a protest against the whole of the expenditure. Our bill for naval works and armaments seems to be increasing at an incredible rate from year to year, and it is time some protest was raised. For the last four years we have had these Naval Works Bills. We have had increased Army Estimates and increased Navy Estimates. I think it will strengthen the hands of the Ministers responsible for these Estimates as against the experts who are pressing increased expenditure upon them if we enter such a protest in the House. Naturally, naval experts wish to increase the Estimates as much as possible. ["No."] I am not making any attack upon them; it is only natural that they should exaggerate their own craft as everybody else does, and think the whole safety of the Empire depends on some novel idea which they have discovered and which they think is necessary to counteract something in France, Russia, or elsewhere. What has happened in the course of the last four years in regard to these naval works? In 1895 we had a Naval Works Bill which contemplated an expenditure of under 9 millions. In 1896 that was increased to 14 millions; in 1897 to 20½ millions, while under this Bill it is proposed to spend 23½ millions, and the First Lord of the Admiralty does not close his mind against further expenditure next year at Wei-hai-wei. So that really in the course

of four years we have more than doubled our expenditure on naval works. In the year 1883 the expenditure upon armaments was 30 millions, in the present year it is nearly 50 millions. If you take India into account we are spending something like 70 millions upon armaments in the present year, while if you add to that the expenditure upon past wars as shown by the National Debt, we are spending something between 95 and 100 millions upon past and future wars. This is a very serious state of things. In twenty-five years we have had an increase of 20 millions in the expenditure upon armaments. What has been the increase in our trade? In 1883 our exports and imports were 733 millions; our trade last year was only 764 millions. There is an increase of something like 60 per cent. in our expenditure upon armaments, and only 5 per cent. in our trade.

***SIR J. COLOMB** (Great Yarmouth): Will the hon. Gentleman give us the trade of the Empire, not of the United Kingdom only?

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I am sorry I cannot at present, but in the course of the Debate I will give the figures asked for. I may, however, point out that the Empire does not subscribe to this expenditure. This is an expenditure which is incurred by the United Kingdom for the protection of its own trade. If the outskirts of the Empire want protection for their trade, let them contribute towards the expenditure. We propose to increase our expenditure upon social schemes—old age pensions, education, and so on; we spend three times as much as it is worth on Salisbury Plain, and twice as much for Nigeria. We cannot go on at this rate. This is a very rich empire, the wealthiest in the world, but there must be a limit to this expenditure upon engines of destruction, or, if you like, engines of defence. The worst of it

is that this expenditure has this effect—that the more you spend the more you are likely to have to spend, because if you spend money in this country France says, “Just look at the Budgets in England; look at their Naval Works Bills.” Russia says the same thing—“In order to meet all this expenditure on the part of Great Britain, we must increase our Army, we must increase our Navy, we must increase our accommodation.” Then there is another scare in this country, and the First Lord of the Admiralty comes to the House, and says, “Just look at the Bill which is now before the French Parliament for the purpose of increasing their Navy”—an increase which has probably been necessitated by an increase which we initiated. We are really taking the initiative, we are forcing the pace, and when bad times come the taxation will be so enormous as to be absolutely oppressive. We do not feel it at present because of the wealth and prosperity of the country, and if no protest has come from the population of these islands, it is because at present they do not feel it. We are proceeding by the method of borrowing. The amount was nine millions in 1895. We said then, “This is spread over a certain number of years.” But really that was not the practical effect of it, because we are increasing the amount year by year, and the result is that so far from that being nine millions spread over twenty or thirty years, as the case may be, it becomes really an annual Bill, because you have nine millions in one year, an increase of five millions in the next, six and a quarter millions in the next, and an increase this year of three and a quarter millions. So that, although nominally it is divided over three years, it has the effect of being an annual Bill, and at some time or other somebody has got to pay this enormous bill. I move the omission of this clause in order to call attention to and protest against this enormous expenditure.

*MR. BROADHURST (Leicester): I join my hon. friend in lamenting the extravagant policy which is being pursued by the present Government. The expenditure is going up by scores of millions for the Services and for political friends, and when at an early stage of the session I made a plaintive appeal to the

Chancellor of the Exchequer, seeing that his income was so large, that he should do something for the working people by way of relief of taxation, and a deaf ear was turned to my appeal. With all the enormous wealth of this country nothing has been done during the existence of the present Government to relieve the heavy burden of taxation from the shoulders of the workers, and yet we see such Bills as that now before us at this stage of the session, dealing with millions as though they were hundreds of pounds, and no one knows where it is going to end. The First Lord of the Admiralty is a man of experience in financial affairs and in administration. No one knows better than he that our present great prosperity must be succeeded by times of depression. What will be your financial position when those times come? You will then have some reason to say that nothing can be done by way of the relief of taxation. It is almost a crime that this constant waste of public funds should go on. If I were going to present a picture as a memorial of the administration of the present Government I should select the picture of the “Rake’s Progress.” It has been nothing but expenditure—no earnings, increased relief to the classes who do not need it, and wasteful extravagance of millions of pounds in quarters where it is likely to do as much harm as good. You cannot expend money in this way without inciting other nations to follow your example, and so you go on from point to point until nations will ruin nations by senseless extravagance and wasteful expenditure.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. GOSCHEN, St. George’s, Hanover Square): I do not propose to follow the hon. Gentleman who spoke last in a general review of the Budgets of Chancellors of the Exchequers or of the expenditure of recent years. We are at present upon Clause 1 of this Bill. The hon. Member for Carnarvon has suggested that it might be agreeable to the Government that there should be a Division in order to strengthen our hands against the experts who ask for this expenditure. We require no such assistance. I am glad, however, that there is to be a Division taken on this point. It is not only a satisfactory issue, but it is satisfactory to have a distinct issue brought forward

on which hon. Members can vote, instead of having a little grumbling here or there and not knowing whether it constitutes opposition to our proposals or whether it does not. Let us know how we stand. I am glad the hon. Member has given us this opportunity, but let the Committee understand what they are going to vote for. We are going to vote not on the question whether there ought or ought not to be increased expenditure, but on the specific proposals of the Government as to whether certain docks and machinery be provided for the purpose of docking our warships. Is the hon. Member against this specific proposal? He is prepared to vote, I understand, that our ships should not have adequate docks. I think I hear someone say, "No, no"; but we cannot have docks without money, and we cannot get money without a Vote from the House of Commons. I claim that those who vote against the Bill vote not as a general protest, but against a specific proposal which I think ought to commend itself to every hon. Member. The working classes know that in case of war their interests are concerned as much as or more than those of any other class in the country. The materials they need for their manufactures and their food supplies all depend upon proper protection being supplied, and that protection can only be given by men-of-war, and those men-of-war can only be efficient if there is proper dock accommodation. Therefore the House and the representatives of the working men would each neglect their duty if they voted against the construction of the docks now proposed by the Government. Hon. Members are at perfect liberty to criticise our general expenditure, but that criticism should come on the Navy Estimates. These present proposals have really little to do with any increased armaments. The simple point is that our present organisation would not be strong enough or safe enough in time of war unless these proposals are endorsed by the Committee, as I hope they will be, unanimously.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): It may surprise the right hon. Gentleman, after his eloquent defence, that I am going to vote against him.

MR. GOSCHEN: Not at all.

Mr. Goschen.

MR. LABOUCHERE: Certainly it is my intention, because I regard the expenditure on the Navy and everything connected with it as a very great deal too much. The argument of my hon. friend the mover of the Amendment is not that he objects particularly to these docks, but that the sum total of the expenditure upon the Navy—docks and things connected with the Navy—is too large, and that if you want docks you must get them out of the sum total, and not come here with a Bill at the end of the session asking us to agree to a loan. My hon. friend is perfectly right in saying that we are absolutely in the hands of militarism. The right hon. Gentleman spurns the offer of assistance made by the mover of the Amendment; we must therefore come to the assistance of the British taxpayer, and object to this large expenditure. Every year there will be greater expenditure upon military and naval armaments, while nothing will be left to spend upon social questions on which the working men think even more strongly than upon these large armaments. For instance, old age pensions. Where are you going to get the money? I was down in my constituency the other day, and naturally I advocated old age pensions for every man, not only at the age of sixty-five, but at the age of sixty. Someone said to me, "Where are you going to get the money?" I replied, "That concerns the Chancellor of the Exchequer, not me." But I can tell the Chancellor of the Exchequer where he can get at least ten millions. Let him reduce the expenditure upon armaments by ten millions, and he will be able to spend that sum more in accordance with the wishes of the working men. We have got into a thorough system of beggar-my-neighbour. We say, "We are going to spend because we think somebody else is going to spend"; somebody else spends because we have spent, and I do not know where the thing is going to end. The First Lord of the Admiralty is not prepared to say that this sum will be the end of the expenditure, or that the Navy Estimates will not go up in future. On the contrary, he says he must ask for so much money this year, for more next year, and for more the year after that. He admits he will have to ask for more in future.

MR. GOSCHEN: I have not admitted that.

MR. LABOUCHERE: No; but that is the view of the right hon. Gentleman. He will not guarantee that as long as he is First Lord of the Admiralty naval expenditure will not go up beyond what it is now.

MR. GOSCHEN: No.

MR. LABOUCHERE: Of course he will not; we all know that it will go up. To test the future we take the experience of the past. So long as we are in the hands of this militarism it will continue to go up. There are special reasons why we should not agree to this clause. We entirely object to these Loans Bills, whether military or naval, being brought in at the end of the session. Whatever expenditure is proposed ought to be in the Estimates of the year, and paid for in that year. At the present moment you have got spending powers by previous Bills; you are not going to spend this money in the present financial year. I doubt whether you are going to spend one shilling of this. You are proposing that the House of Commons as at present constituted should give you a free hand to spend money which will have to be paid by the Votes of other Parliaments. Why do you do it? Why not say what you want to spend in the year and ask us to vote the money, and not pledge future Parliaments in this way? Why should we in this country pay large sums for docks in self-governing colonies? We are always being told that these colonies are burning with a desire to unite with us in defending the Empire. They volunteer in a vague sort of way, when they know nobody will accept the offer, to fight against anybody with whom we may rightly or wrongly be in antagonism; but when it comes to a cash contribution, they are exceedingly costive. I believe one colony has said it will give £30,000 a year, but as a rule they will not pay their legitimate share of the expenditure for the defence of the Empire. Why are we to spend money in these colonies? The colonies will benefit by it. It is not as if the work were to be done at home, and our men profited by the expenditure

in that way. I quite admit that as we have commerce we ought to pay a certain amount, but we ought not to spend any money on a coaling station or anything else in a self-governing colony unless we have a real understanding that that colony will bear a share of the expenditure. It is true the work may be necessary for our commerce, but they also have commerce; they have interests identical with our own in such matters. Why cannot the right hon. Gentleman wait until next year? He does not want the money, nor will he spend it this year. Why anticipate the future? We know not what the future may bring forth, we do not know what may happen next year. We may engage in a war, in which case we should have to spend very largely; but why ask us at the present moment to vote money, throwing it over a series of years, when not one shilling of the money is to be expended during the present year?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I think the First Lord of the Admiralty scarcely did justice to his own case. What is the Amendment? It is to reject Clause 1. What is Clause 1? It only partially relates to new docks. It relates to works which are in course of execution, and to which the greater portion of the money guaranteed by this Bill applies. More than half those works are works begun by the Party now on this side of the House. If there is a desire to raise the question suggested by the mover of the Amendment, it should be specifically done by indicating the items which relate to the new works. By moving the rejection of the whole clause you object to works which have been sanctioned by four successive Parliaments, you declare that the money which has been spent should be thrown away and the works not proceeded with, and that being the effect of the Amendment it is perfectly impossible for me to vote for it.

*SIR EDWARD GOURLEY (Sunderland): The First Lord of the Admiralty asks the House for some specific objection. I will give him one. I object to the enormous expenditure on Dover Harbour. What good will Dover Harbour be after this money has been spent? There is to be some machinery, but we have had no explanation as to its nature,

although it is to cost £60,000. Is Dover to be a new dockyard, supplementary to Portsmouth, Sheerness, Devonport, and the others, of which we have sufficient already? I contend that the proposal with regard to Dover is totally unnecessary in the interests of the Navy, or as a refuge from a victorious enemy. Another specific objection is with regard to barracks. We are asked to spend a very large sum on housing something like 25 per cent. of our bluejackets. That is another unnecessary expenditure. If we are to have this enormous number of men continually on shore what is meant by manning the fleet? Either that there are too many bluejackets, or too few ships for the men voted for annually. Instead of spending this money on barracks for men, whether bluejackets or marines, we ought to house them mainly on board the ships of the Navy, where they can always be in touch with seafaring duties. I therefore object to these two items of expenditure, so far as expenditure is concerned. The only urgent part is that for graving docks at Gibraltar and the Cape.

*MR. H. J. WILSON (Yorkshire, W. R., Holmfirth): The right hon. Gentleman wants to pin us down to the particular items to which we object. That is a device which is often resorted to, and although we perfectly understand how unfair it is, I will mention one or two points out of many. There are charges in two or three places for the provision of sick quarters. Is it not perfectly obvious that when places such as those in question are built you must have sick quarters provided? How was it the provision was not made at the beginning? Why were they not proposed before? Because the whole system is to get the money bit by bit and portion by portion, without the public knowing where all the money is going to. For my own part I entirely agree with what has been said about the colonies participating in this expenditure. We are always speaking about the defence of the country as synonymous with the defence of the Empire, but it is a totally different thing when finding the money is concerned. I am very glad to have this opportunity of recording my vote as a protest against this continually increasing expenditure.

*MR. DAVITT (Mayo, S.): I join with my hon. friend in protesting against what
Sir Edward Gourley.

I consider almost a criminal waste of public money. I contend that this money could be employed at home on work which would be far more beneficial to the people of this country than anything which is contemplated under this Bill. I go so far as to say that if the money which has been voted for the last twenty-five years for work of this kind had been spent in warring against the poverty of Great Britain and Ireland we might have had the workhouses of this country tenantless at the present time. The hon. and gallant Gentleman interjected a remark that these naval works were required in defence of the Empire. If that is so, I would like to know why the colonies which benefit by this expenditure should not be asked to contribute something towards the expense. There have recently been offers from Queensland, New South Wales and Canada to help England if you should happen to have a small war in Africa. I venture to say that such offers do not reflect very much credit upon the colonies, and it would have been far better if they had reserved their offers of assistance until you were engaged in war with some great Power. The right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Admiralty has stated that the object of this expenditure is to be prepared for possible war, but where is the possibility of war in connection with Bermuda, where you are going to expend £650,000 on naval works? Do you contemplate a war with the United States? If you do not, why are you going to create these works in that part of the world? Surely you do not mean to say that Russia, Germany, or France would go across the Atlantic to attack you in Bermuda. I find that in this Memorandum these works were not contemplated in 1895, and what has occurred since then which necessitates this large expenditure in Bermuda? If you expect hostilities with France you will have them nearer home than in the direction of Bermuda. I protest as an Irish Member against this continual shovelling of money into naval and military operations. It would be far more in keeping with your professed regard for progress, humanity and enlightenment if you spent the money in warring against poverty in your own country.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): My hon. friend the Member for Northampton, finding a

little difficulty in regard to Clause 1, has very ingeniously started the subject of the colonies which has occurred to him as a good one to run in this Debate. As a matter of fact I think I am right in saying that there is only one dock proposed which is in a self-governing colony, and when my hon. friend says that the colonies in which these docks are situated are equally interested, that cannot be said about the dock at Simon's Bay. In time of war the great bulk of our trade, which now goes through the Suez Canal, is likely to go round the Cape, and therefore it will be necessary to have a dock at Simon's Bay; in fact, I think more than one dock is necessary at that point. My hon. friend who has just sat down has alluded to the possibility of war with the United States, but it is not altogether fair to this Bill to make that suggestion. I have always regretted our military expenditure at Bermuda; but with regard to a dock there, I think there can be no doubt that it is necessary, more especially when you consider the proposals of a neighbouring foreign Power, which has been building a large number of first-class cruisers with the object, in time of war, of preying upon our trade; therefore, you must consider the possibility of fighting cruisers in West Indian waters, and it is necessary to have a dock there to repair our vessels. The possible attack upon our trade in time of war by the first-class cruisers of foreign countries is a matter which must demand the attention of the Admiralty, and it is absolutely necessary that large docks should be built for first-class cruisers in places like Bermuda. Like my hon. and gallant friend opposite, I am anxious that the colonies should make a contribution towards our naval expenditure; but while that suggestion should be constantly pressed upon the colonies, it is impossible for this country to suspend the expenditure until that is brought about.

MR. MADDISON (Sheffield, Brightside): I am one of those who think that the right hon. Gentleman who has just spoken, with all his knowledge of naval matters, does more harm than good to this country. I join with my hon. friend in protesting against this further increase of the burdens of the people. To begin with, I have absolutely no con-

fidence in the way the Admiralty spend their money, so long as the right hon. Gentleman opposite is at the head of affairs. It is all very well to come forward with proposals for this, that, and the other, but there is another class which is generally forgotten, which has some claim upon the Admiralty, and that is the working class. There is no Department of the State where they have got less justice than from the Admiralty, and I am here to say that, not only is this a great waste of money, but it is spent in a most unfair way so far as the working classes—more especially as regards the lower paid workers—are concerned, and those hon. Gentlemen who go down to their constituencies declaring how much good the right hon. Gentleman has done to the working classes by this great expenditure of public money are talking some very queer economics. The great mass of artisans, especially the labourers, have begun to clearly realise that their share of the Admiralty expenditure is a very niggardly and poor one, and no one is more responsible for that than the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Admiralty. I should like to know when is the most convenient occasion to protest against this constant increase in naval expenditure? If we take the opportunity to do it when the First Lord comes down during a panic to ask for a great sum of money, we are at once told that we are not patriotic, that we do not love the fatherland, and that we are little better than the emissaries of some foreign state. When we come to a more detailed matter, which it is not so convenient to discuss, then we are asked what particular detail are we referring to. I am gravely concerned about this expenditure, and in time the country will realise that a great amount of national treasure is going in one direction. During these last few sessions of Parliament it has been the easiest thing possible to get almost any sum through this House, so long as it was wanted for military or naval expenditure; and just as the House has been liberal in voting these lavish sums for military purposes, it has been just as illiberal in voting money for great reforms, such as the Old Age Pension scheme. Of course, we cannot have it both ways, for the money cannot be going on the Army and Navy and into the pockets of the people, to make their lives brighter in their old age, at the same time. At all costs, and with a full conviction that I am doing my

duty both to the fatherland and to the great mass of the people, I am here to protest by voice and vote against these great increases in the Army and Navy expenditure which are going on from year to year, and which are not bringing about that peace which hon. Gentlemen sometimes say they want, but which is making peace further distant.

MR. DILLON: The hon. Member opposite, in protesting against this motion, said the effect of carrying it would be tantamount to a decision on the part of the House to stop the works which are already in progress, many of which have been approved by the Liberal Party when in power, and the money which had been expended upon them would be lost. I totally differ from the hon. Member in that opinion, for there is no foundation for it. The Government have in their possession the sum of £4,505,000, and up to the 31st of March they had expended only £3,378,000 on the works, which leaves them £1,000,000 at least still at their disposal for the continuation of those works. That million would enable them to continue these works for a considerable time, and certainly till the beginning of next year. I desire to point out that there is absolutely no urgency. If this Amendment were carried and the first clause negatived, that decision would carry with it no such principle as that which has been laid down by the hon. Member for Denbigh, for the only consequence would be that the Government would be obliged to limit their expenditure between the 31st of March last and

the beginning of next session to about one million of money. Last year, during the whole financial year, they only expended £1,227,000, so that on the same proportion of expenditure as that which was incurred last year they have money enough at their disposal already to last them until the opening of the next session of Parliament. Therefore, I say that no sufficient grounds have been made out for forcing through the House of Commons this enormous loan Bill at this period of the session. Objection was taken at an earlier period to taking this Bill and the Military Works Bill at such a late period of the session, and urgency was pleaded. All those hon. Members who are sound on financial matters will agree that these proposals should have been made when the Budget was before the House, so that we should have then had all the financial proposals of the Government before us. But the Government decided, against all precedent, to hold back these Bills to nearly the end of the session. Putting aside the question as to the merits of the works, and the question of the rapid increase of expenditure on such works, I say that no case of urgency has been made out, and no justification has been offered for the introduction of such a Bill at this late period of the session. Upon this ground alone I shall certainly vote for my hon. friend's proposal.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 159; Noes, 48. (Division List, No. 311.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Asher, Alexander
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert Henry
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manc'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. B. (Clackm.)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barry, Rt. Hon. A. H. S. (Hunts)
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander
Bhownagpree, Sir M. M.
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bolitho, Thomas Bedford
Bousfield, William Robert
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John

Brookfield, A. Montagu
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Clarke, Sir Edward (Plymouth)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)

Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Curzon, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Disraeli, Conningsby Ralph
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph D.
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn E.
Ferguson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manc'r)
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)

Mr. Maddison.

Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. Geo's)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Hamond, Sir Chas. (Newcastle)
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Henderson, Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Rbt. Trotter
 Hoare, E. Brodie (Hampstead)
 Howard, Joseph
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Joicey, Sir James
 Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hn. Sir U
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kimber, Henry
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning-(Corn)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn-(Sw'n's a
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lucas-Shadwell, William

Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdon, John Cumming
 Maclure, Sir John William
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 M'Killop, James
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
 Milton, Viscount
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, Walter
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
 Muntz, Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Palmer, Geo. Wm. (Reading)
 Percy, Earl
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)

Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strachey, Edward
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton-u.-Lyne)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, J. Powell- (Birm.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wrightson, Thomas
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, W. (Cork, N.E.)
 Allen, W. (New-under-Lyme)
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Billson, Alfred
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Caldwell, James
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Crilly, Daniel
 Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
 Davitt, Michael
 Dillon, John
 Doogan, P. C.
 Duckworth, James
 Fenwick, Charles

Griffith, Ellis J.
 Hazell, Walter
 Healy, Timothy M. (N Louth)
 Holden, Sir Augus
 Holland, W. H. (York, W. R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumb'land)
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Dermott, Patrick
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
 Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr)
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Connor, J. (Wicklow, W.)

Palmer, Sir Chas. M. (Durham)
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Charles E. (Stafford)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
 Wedderburn, Sir William
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, Hy. J. (York, W. R.)
 Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
 Woods, Samuel
TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Lloyd-George and Mr.
 Broadhurst.

Clause 2, agreed to.

Clause 3 :—

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I desire to move an Amendment to leave out "120,000" and insert "100,000." This money has been spent upon works at Gibraltar, and nothing has been spent upon the defence of the Bristol Channel.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Perhaps the hon. Gentleman will permit me to say that there is no money to be spent under this Bill in the sense in which he speaks at Gibraltar.

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MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I should like to know whether this expenditure is not under the control of the Admiralty, and whether this proposal does not mean that the whole control is in their hands. Is there some kind of joint control over the harbour? Is it proposed that these dues should be settled entirely by the Gibraltar authorities? I think there ought to be some sort of control on behalf of the Admiralty with regard to them.

Amendment proposed—

"In schedule, page 2, line 16, to leave out '120,000,' in order to insert '100,000.'"—(Mr. Lloyd-George.)

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Question proposed, "That '120,000' stand part of the schedule."

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: We will receive our share of the net profits in proportion to the contributions we have made. There will be a joint Committee who will settle with the Treasury.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. DAVITT: I beg to move the omission of the items in the schedule which include the Bermuda Dockyard extension. I wish to know why this large expenditure is to be carried out on this little island. I am not aware there is any necessity for it. I believe the dockyard accommodation has been found adequate for all the requirements of your navy in the past, and I do not see why it should not be sufficient for your needs in the future. I am of opinion that you are not contemplating these works with the view to some possible conflict with France in that part of the world. I believe you have some other purpose in view which you do not wish to explain. I am opposed to the expenditure of this large sum on this little island, and therefore I shall divide the Committee on this matter.

Amendment proposed—

"In Schedule, page 2, to leave out lines 42 to 45 inclusive."—(*Mr. Davitt.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the schedule."

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I have little to add to what has already been said on this subject by the First Lord and the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean. I suppose even the hon. Member (whose speech I think was not made for this Committee) will admit that we must keep a squadron in the West Indies, and it stands to reason that we must have a dock capable of accommodating the largest ship in the squadron. The dock at Bermuda is too small, and the only British dock on the station is in the extreme north of Halifax. I need not labour the matter further, but the Committee will see that this cannot be construed even by the wildest imagination as any provocation to any other Power, and that it is absolutely essential to the efficiency and safety of our fleet.

The Government, of course, cannot consent to the Amendment.

MR. MADDISON: The Amendment of my hon. friend is to give to this part of the scheme a kind of anti-American character, and for that reason I am bound to say that I cannot support him. As a protest against this naval expenditure I would be prepared to go a long way, but it is even more important that this scheme should not in the slightest degree appear to be directed against the American Government.

*SIR J. COLOMB: The hon. Gentleman is apparently ignorant of the fact that this Vote is to bring up to date a certain dock. There has been a floating dock for something like twenty-five years at Bermuda, but that is now too small for our ships.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

SIR U. KAY-SHUTTLEWORTH: I move this Amendment because I consider that a floating dock is not a proper charge to be included in this Bill. A floating dock is not like a permanent work of masonry, and it has not been our practice to defray the cost of a structure of this kind out of borrowed money. The right hon. Gentleman said the other night that the dock would probably last for thirty years, but our policy has been hitherto to restrict the application of the Naval Works Act to works of a thoroughly permanent character, and put all the other works on the Estimates in the ordinary way, and that is the question which I now desire to raise.

Amendment proposed—

"In schedule, page 2, line 45, to leave out '205,000,' in order to insert '105,000.'"—(*Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth.*)

Question proposed, "That '205,000' stand part of the schedule."

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The original intention was to construct a graving dock at Bermuda, but the expense of that was found to be too great, and we therefore proposed to substitute a floating dock. The right hon. Gentleman has stated that this floating dock will last as long as the terminable annuities created under this Bill, and there is even no

reason to suppose that the dock will be worn out at the end of thirty years. A large part of the structure will be of a permanent character, the dock will be kept in proper repair, and it will probably last for a much longer period. I therefore see no reason for the right hon. Gentleman's Amendment.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: Of course, there will be great risk in getting the floating dock out.

SIR U. KAY-SHUTTLEWORTH: I would ask whether the money for the dock is to be paid before or after it arrives in Bermuda.

MR. GOSCHEN: That will depend on the contract.

Question put and agreed to.

MR. DILLON: I beg to move the omission of lines 46, 47 and 48 in the schedule with reference to the proposed expenditure at Simon's Bay. This is a new work of great cost and importance, and I think we are entitled to have an explanation regarding the amount. I do not profess to be an expert in these matters, but I think that Simon's Bay is not a station in the vicinity of which any considerable number of the fleet is habitually stationed. The consideration, however, to which I attach a great deal of importance is that I think I am right in saying that this is the first time that a proposal has been placed before the House of Commons to expend anything approaching such a large sum in the carrying out of naval works in a self-governing colony. I do not think there is any other case on record where that has been done. The principle at stake is a very important one. Many of the self-governing colonies are, practically speaking, independent of the mother country, and as far as I am aware, it has been the fixed policy of England ever since the colonies obtained self-government not to embark in any large expenditure in them. For instance, this has been the policy carried out in Australia and New Zealand, and if the policy now proposed were to be accepted, it would be naturally expected that the most important sites for large docks would be along the eastern coast of Australia and New Zealand. In Auckland there is a dock,

but the New Zealand Government have very considerable control over it, and it cannot be regarded as a precedent governing the present case. I object to this proposal in the first place because it is novel, and because it appears to be practically speaking a new departure in policy; and in the second place I object to it because the sum to be expended is so enormous, and that alone constitutes the difference between this case and the case of Auckland. In the case of New Zealand and Australia you have got to deal with colonies which according to universal testimony are thoroughly at one with the mother country; but we are told in that famous historic dispatch of Sir Alfred Milner that the Dutch population at the Cape is disaffected to the mother country. I myself have my doubts about that statement, but any man who objects to Sir Alfred Milner now is regarded with wrath.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Gentleman is now probably anticipating a Debate which will come off to-morrow.

MR. DILLON: I object to spending £2,500,000 of the taxpayers' money in a country which has a constitutional Government independent of this Government, and the inhabitants of which are not well affected towards this country. If we are to accept the contention in Sir Alfred Milner's dispatch, and if you are to pursue your present policy, I think it is extremely likely that before this dock is finished South Africa will be lost to this country altogether, and you will then be in the position, after having squandered this money, of being left without the country or the dock. I think when we are called upon to face an enormous expenditure like this we are entitled to some assurance that the work executed will be there for the advantage of the taxpayers, and that a foolish and fatuous policy will not be pursued, which would rob the taxpayers of this sum.

Amendment proposed—

"In Schedule, page 2, to leave out lines 46, 47, and 48."—(*Mr. Dillon.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of schedule."

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MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN : This is not the only case where we have a naval establishment in a self-governing colony. We have one at Sydney on a more elaborate scale than Simon's Bay has hitherto been. In time of peace an enormous amount of British trade passes the Cape, and in time of war the amount of trade passing would be very largely increased. For the protection of trade we must have a squadron in those waters, and we have a very considerable squadron there. We must provide facilities for the repair of the ships of that squadron, and the dock at present at Cape Town is not large enough. Accordingly we propose this expenditure in order to provide a dock at Simon's Bay. With regard to the feeling in the Colony towards this proposed work, the hon. Member need be under no apprehension. We have received every assistance from the Cape Government, and two Acts have been passed through the Cape Legislature to give us proper control over the property to be acquired for the works, and I wish to express the indebtedness of the Admiralty for the spirit displayed by the Cape Ministry and Legislature. In fact they are very anxious that this work should be carried out. Then the hon. Member criticised the great expense of the work. That is a point into which we have gone very carefully. We did not enter with a light heart into an expenditure involving two-and-a-half millions. We had a very careful survey carried out, and the report of the engineer was considered by the Admiralty and modified as far as possible, having regard to the importance of the station. All that we propose to do under this Bill is to erect a dock with the necessary shops and machinery, and to improve the coaling arrangements. At the present time the latter are so deficient that with a spell of bad weather several days might elapse before the fleet could be coaled. I need not point out how dangerous such a state of things would be in the event of hostilities, when the free mobility of the fleet would be of the utmost importance, and when any delay might lead to a great disaster or to the loss of a great advantage. I am quite certain it is impossible to give the necessary facilities for our fleet on a more moderate scale than we now propose.

MR. DAVITT: Will the Admiralty have any control over the way in which the work is to be carried out, and will Kaffir labour or free labour be employed?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN : Free labour. It is our intention to put the work out to contract, like all our great works.

MR. DILLON: The hon. Gentleman said that he wished on behalf of the Admiralty to thank the Government of the Cape for the facilities they have given. I wish Statesmen in this country generally were more civil to the Government of the Cape, because that might remove some of the danger which I indicated. No language is too severe for the war organs in this country to use towards Mr. Schreiner or his Government.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill reported without Amendment; to be read the third time upon Monday next.

MILITARY WORKS BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

(Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, Cumberland, Penrith, in the Chair.)

Clause 1 :—

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): I think it may be convenient, and shorten proceedings, if I indicate now what I am quite prepared to do, supposing it is the general wish of the Committee. During the Debate on the Second Reading several hon. Members, including the Leader of the Opposition, and the hon. and learned Member for Dundee, set great store upon having inserted into the schedule of the Bill the Paper circulated as a White Paper, on the ground that it would give the House more control over the expenditure. I think myself that there is ample opportunity for controlling the sums advanced to the War Office under this Bill, but as they insist upon having that schedule in the Act, I am quite prepared to accept the Amendment on the Paper which stands in the name of the hon. Member

for East Aberdeenshire. If I do that, I trust that I may fairly expect that hon. Members will raise their discussions on questions of policy on the Schedule, and not as they would have been driven to do somewhat awkwardly on the earlier portion of the Bill.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): I admit the hon. Member the Under Secretary for War has made a very important concession. I think all the Amendments were so framed as to give an opportunity to the House to discuss the information contained in the White Paper. If the hon. Gentleman adopts the White Paper as a Schedule to the Bill, the opportunity will be open to the Committee of discussing the details in the ordinary way.

*SIR J. COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): I am glad to see that my hon. friend has, to a certain extent, given way in respect to affording more information, by placing the White Paper in the Schedule. But I really think that we should have some further information about this Bill. I will not go over the ground again, that the War Office has departed from every precedent in regard to these loans, I will not touch upon the four millions at all, but I will take the question of the one million for earth works. If there be some extraordinary reason for objecting to give information in regard to the places on which this million is to be spent, we ought to have it stated in the House. It is a curious thing to withhold information about earthworks. Armaments are not in this Vote at all. The Vote is merely a million for earthworks. It is a mystery, for the Government will not tell us where the earthworks are to be.

*THE CHAIRMAN: If the hon. Gentleman objects, as I understand him, to the item in the Schedule for defence works, he ought to reserve his criticism until we reach that item in the Schedule.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): As I understand it, the hon. Member does not object to the item, but he wants details. There is an Amendment on the Paper upon which that question will be raised, if it is in order. Unless it is in order, however, we shall have to discuss the matter item by item.

*THE CHAIRMAN: So far as I see at present, there is no objection to that; but if the Committee insert anything in the Bill, before that particular Amendment is reached, something may occur which may make it out of order.

*SIR J. COLOMB: If I wish to reduce this 4,000,000 in the clause by 1,000,000, may I not do so?

*THE CHAIRMAN: If the hon. and gallant Gentleman wishes to reduce the whole sum by 1,000,000, certainly. But if he is going to discuss particular defence works, and how this money is to be applied to these, he will only be in order on the Schedule.

*SIR J. COLOMB: On a point of order, the hon. Member the Under Secretary for War told us, in introducing the resolution on which this Bill is based, that the money was to be expended on five different classes of work. But unless we get certain information in regard to the nature of that classification, and to the proportion of the money to be devoted to each class, I will propose to reduce the sum by 1,000,000. I want your ruling, Mr. Lowther, on that point.

*THE CHAIRMAN: It is almost impossible to give a decision on that point, because I have not heard the hon. and gallant Member. I can only say that detailed criticism must clearly come on the details in the Schedule. If the hon. Member thinks that three millions would be enough, and not the four millions in the Bill, he may move a reduction of a million.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfarshire): There is a point antecedent to this. The Under-Secretary for War has now agreed to put in the Schedule the Amendment of the hon. Member for East Aberdeenshire, but that does not include the million for defence works. I want to move to leave out the million for defence works at whatever time is convenient to the Committee.

*THE CHAIRMAN: If the hon. Gentleman objects to spending a million on defence works, the proper time to take it is when these works are reached.

SIR J. COLOMB: Then, I suppose I will be in order to move to reduce this Vote by a million, but not in order to give my reasons for it.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I have not said that. The proper time to give reasons against a particular Vote is when the particular Vote objected to is reached.

*SIR J. COLOMB: I will confine myself to the reasons why I object to this vote on broad general grounds of policy. We have been told that there are five classes of expenditure on which this million is to be spent. These are—principal naval bases, secondary naval bases, coaling stations, commercial ports, and defence works. In my humble judgment, the War Office does not seem to have a particularly clear notion as to the principles which have ruled, and must always rule, naval warfare. How they have reached this classification I cannot say. But I do say, that for a Power having the mastery of the sea, and having already spent many millions upon defence works at naval bases and maritime ports, it requires more explanation than we have yet had, why we want to spend a million more for works alone, without armaments, for our naval bases. The War Office has got to make out much more clearly and distinctly than they have done why they want this million, and on what principle they want it. There is another point; you are coming for a million to be spent at naval ports, but we are not told where these naval ports are. I want to know whether you are following out the principle established in 1884, and strictly adhered to under the Imperial Defence Act in 1888. All these works must necessarily be either at home or abroad in our territories, or colonies and dependencies. In 1884 the principle was laid down that where we were going to arm or defend a naval port in the colonies, the works and buildings should be provided at the Colonial expense, and the armaments provided by the Imperial Government. And that principle was also applied in the Imperial Defence Act of 1888. I want to know why that principle should be departed from, if it has been departed from. If it has been departed from, then this million must be going to be spent in the United Kingdom.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. and gallant Member is now clearly discussing the character of the defence works. The proper time to do that is when the million set down in the Schedule for defence works is reached.

*SIR J. COLOMB: I was only discussing whether we have departed from the principle laid down in the Acts of 1884 and 1888.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The mistake which the hon. and gallant gentleman makes is that when he is asked to vote this four millions he thinks he is also asked to vote a million for defence works. But until that particular million for defence works is reached in the schedule he cannot discuss it.

*SIR J. COLOMB: Then I will defer my observations on that point until the million in the Schedule is reached; but as a solemn protest against the whole matter, I beg to move the reduction of the four millions in the first clause of the Bill, by one million.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 8, to leave out the word 'four' in order to insert the word 'three.'"—(Sir J. Colomb.)

Question proposed, "That the word 'four' stand part of the clause."

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: I am thoroughly at one with the hon. and gallant Member on this subject, and I wish to support him in getting details of the expenditure of this million which I think ought to be given, and which it would be most dangerous to refuse. But I think we should have a rather confused issue if we raised the point at this particular moment, and I will ask him not to press it now.

MR. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.): I suppose this is the proper moment for shewing that the Government might have spent their money in a better way than they propose. In the discussion in the early part of the session, we had a promise from the Financial Secretary of War, when this Bill was introduced, that there would be contained in it a sum of £100,000 for barracks in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh.

MR. WYNDHAM: I think the hon. Member should raise that question on the proviso in line 14.

MR. BUCHANAN: If you agree with that, Mr. Lowther, I will not proceed to discuss it now.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I see no objection to the discussion on the proviso.

*SIR J. COLOMB: Then, with the permission of the Committee, I beg leave to withdraw my Amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

MR. BUCHANAN: The Amendment I wish to move is, after the word "issued," in line 14, to add—

"Provided that out of the above sum not less than one hundred thousand pounds be expended upon barracks in and near Edinburgh."

When, on the 23rd April, we were discussing the Army Estimates and the Vote for barracks, the question arose as to the barracks at Piershill. We called attention to the very insanitary condition of these barracks and other barracks in Scotland, and my hon. friend near me moved a reduction of the Vote in order to bring the matter to a Division. The hon. Gentleman the Financial Secretary to the War Office told us that inquiry would be made in regard to Piershill, and as regards the more general matter we had brought up he said, "It may comfort the hon. Member to know that there is a proposal in the Barracks Bill for an expenditure of £100,000 for the improvement of the barrack accommodation in the city of Edinburgh." I asked him if that included Piershill, and he said, "Yes." Upon that announcement the hon. Member for North Aberdeen was induced to withdraw his Amendment. I think we were all somewhat surprised when this Bill was produced, with the White Paper attached, to find that instead of proposing £100,000, there was only £25,000 for Edinburgh and a sum not named for Leith Fort. Our case is this in Scotland, that, while we need a much smaller military establishment than any other part of the country, we think we have a claim that the barracks we have should at any rate be quite up to the average,

and not allowed to fall below the average of sanitary and inhabitable condition. The case we made out as to Piershill and other barracks was unanswerable. The Under Secretary for War will admit the fact that Piershill is in a very insanitary condition. Later on, in another discussion, the Under Secretary himself laid down the canon of a good barrack, that it should be a good barrack in itself, with a good practising ground near it, and not more than 100 years old. Piershill is more than 100 years old, there is no practising ground near it, and it is in a very insanitary condition, and you will have to look forward to building an entirely new barrack. There are other strong cases in Scotland, such as Leith Fort, and Fort George, which are very insanitary. I understand that the Government are only keeping men at Fort George until the new barracks at Salisbury Plain are finished. Then, Edinburgh Castle is not in a good condition, although no doubt there is a good deal of sentiment in connection with that ancient stronghold. The extension of the barracks in Edinburgh should be outside the Castle itself, and good, new, healthily constructed buildings should be erected. After having got the promise of the Financial Secretary for War that he would insert £100,000 in the Loans Bill, we naturally concluded that the Secretary for War was going to take steps to put the barracks in Scotland into a proper condition, and we were satisfied for the moment. I hope we shall get some assurance that he is going to fulfil the promise that was made, and that he will modify this Bill in the direction of my Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 14, at the end of the Clause, to add the words 'provided that out of the above sum not less than one hundred thousand pounds be expended upon barracks in and near Edinburgh.'"—(Mr. Buchanan.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): I am in entire agreement in one particular with my hon. friend the member for East Aberdeenshire, so far as regards the wish of most Scotch Members that we should not have very large barracks. What we do wish, however, is that the barracks in

Scotland should be in proportion to the other barracks in the United Kingdom, and that the sums spent upon them should be adequate. It is an undoubted truth that the barracks in Scotland are the most tumble-down, most ramshackle places for the accommodation of troops in the whole United Kingdom. I wish that everyone in Scotland should read the figures I am going to give the Committee. The total sum voted in the Bill of 1897, and in the present Bill, is £9,000,000, £5,000,000 of which is to be spent on barrack accommodation and ranges in the United Kingdom. Out of that, in round figures, four and a quarter millions are to be spent in England, and three-quarters of a million in Ireland. The small residue to be spent in Scotland by this great and magnanimous country for the housing of the troops in Scotland is £65,000. I can only call such conduct as that the very height and depth of niggardliness. I do say that, if the Scottish Members were doing their duty to their country, although such things were allowed to exist in the past, they would unanimously insist on having this grievance redressed in the future. I know that some Scottish Members will not rest until we have justice done in this regard. I, myself, lately paid a visit to Stirling Castle, where I found the Government, in order to save a few pounds a year, is giving up the old historical castles of Scotland to uses to which they ought not to be put. I went into the old historical banqueting hall of the Scottish kings in Stirling Castle—a banqueting hall, which in any other country would be a place of interest and affection to the people of the country—and I found it made use of as a dry canteen, with a billiard table at one end and a grocery bar at the other. Such conduct and treatment as that I call nothing less than shameful. Then, in Edinburgh Castle what has been done. A modern ugly building has been placed on the crown of the grand rock, which is an eyesore to the whole city. The barrack building is like a prison, and the story is told that the engineer who designed it was directed to prepare a building with accommodation for so many troops, and that he did not know where it was to be erected, and in fact he had never even been there. Again, take the married soldiers' quarters. They are away from the barracks, and are a disgrace to the

city. When there is only £65,000 devoted to barracks in Scotland and £5,000,000 to barracks in England and Ireland, I am surprised that any Government can be found which allows such a state of affairs to exist. Still more am I surprised that the Scottish Members do not stand up and object as strongly as they possibly can to such a stingy wrong and to such unjust treatment.

*MR. WYNDHAM: I can quite understand the disappointment expressed by the hon. Member who moved this Amendment at the fact that we are not now under this Bill to make provision for the improvement of Piershill barracks, or to substitute for them better buildings. To a great extent I share that disappointment. I fully recognise that Piershill is not all that a cavalry or any other barrack should be. But I cannot admit with justice that it is insanitary. I have gone carefully into this matter, and I find that all the information placed at my disposal does not show that the barracks are unhealthy. There are no drainage diseases among the troops. I admit that the buildings are very uncomfortable and inadequate, and I wish I was in a position to say that under this Bill we were going to take powers to remedy the matter. But, having said that, I should like to clear up a misunderstanding that has arisen as to what was said by the Financial Secretary earlier in the session. I put it on all fours with an observation which I interjected in the Debate, also in reply to the same hon. Gentleman earlier in the year. He will recollect I said we should want £5,000,000 for barracks, and that we were working out a complete scheme. Well, in that complete scheme there is a sum of £45,000 for Piershill Barracks. The hon. Member may say, "Why, if you recognise that this sum is necessary for Piershill, do you not put it in the Bill?" The chief objection to that is, that we have added units to Infantry and Artillery, but not to Cavalry; and therefore we have had to make first provision for Infantry and Artillery barracks. The hon. Member says that patching will not do, and that for £45,000 we could only repair the barracks. But in order to substitute new barracks, we must have taken £160,000. We were not prepared to take that large sum. As to the sum to be expended in Scotland, no doubt Scotland suffered from our

Mr. Pirie

not being able to go in for our whole scheme at once. The hon. Member for North Aberdeen pointed out that, under the Act of 1897 and this Bill, we are only giving £65,000 to Scotland; but under the complete scheme, which includes this Bill and the Act of 1897, there would be £45,000 for Piershill, and sums for the barracks at Hamilton and other places, making in all £120,000 for Scotland. I naturally do not want to ride a principle to death. Still, we must have regard to the principle of concentration, much more than to popularity in particular towns. I must ask the Committee to consider the economical argument. In order to bring all the barracks in towns up to a proper modern standard, we should have to spend millions; but at Salisbury Plain we have already a site where we can build better barracks, and where also, by means of concentration, the troops can be made more efficient. On these grounds, therefore, of efficiency, concentration, and a regard to the pockets of the taxpayers, we cannot attach the importance we should like to the arguments of the hon. Gentleman.

MR. WARNER (Stafford, Lichfield): An extraordinary statement was made by the hon. Gentleman, that this Bill was necessary, because of the increase in the Infantry and Artillery in the Army. Now, we showed the other day that only twenty-four men had been added to the Army and Militia, and the slight increase in the line is not enough to demand new barracks.

***MR. WYNDHAM:** There is an increase of 9,000 men.

***SIR CHARLES DILKE:** Not at home.

***MR. WYNDHAM:** Admitting that, for the sake of argument, the hon. Member must see that you cannot put fragments of two battalions in one barrack.

MR. WARNER: If small battalions necessarily increase the number of barracks, that only strengthens our case. The only object in dividing these battalions up, besides as it affects your paper Army, which is absolutely unimportant, is that you should have some representative battalion in each district of the country. That only increases the

strength of the case for having barracks in Scotland. I am sorry to hear that this money for barracks is rendered necessary by the breaking up of the army into small battalions. What increase in the army there has been, the most of it has gone abroad, and we have not anything like 12,000 more men than we had five years ago.

MR. BUCHANAN: The hon. Gentleman says that we must go on the principle of concentration, and not on that of popularity. I entirely demur to the statement that I had been mentioning the case of Piershill from the point of view of local popularity or electioneering. Piershill is not in my own constituency. I do not like to say much about military matters, not being a soldier myself, and I do not know the ropes very well. But the re-construction of Piershill barracks has been urged, time after time, by the General Officer commanding in the Edinburgh district, particularly in respect that they are inadequate for a whole cavalry regiment, and have no exercise ground near them. And I believe that the Commander-in-Chief has backed up that demand, and urged it upon the attention of the War Office, on the ground that it has now been determined by the War Office that one cavalry regiment should be permanently stationed in Scotland. Piershill cannot contain a whole regiment, and you are obliged to keep one squadron at Maryhill. Surely it is indefensible to maintain an old barrack like this, when it will not contain a full regiment. I am told by military men that the fact of there being no exercise ground at or near Piershill affects the discipline of the men, and it takes two or three months for a cavalry regiment, after it leaves Piershill, to be brought into a proper state of efficiency. I do not think a stronger case could be made out in favour of building new barracks than at Piershill. Besides that, we have the promise of the Financial Secretary. In was not an interjected observation; it was part of a speech made by him, and we took it as a promise made to the House. I cannot make out that that promise would be fulfilled by a reference to Schedule B. Schedule B is no part of this Bill, and we do not want it to be. Schedule B is a pious opinion as to what the Secretary for War, or his successor, may do three or

four years hence; and to carry out any of the works included in that Schedule another Bill will be required. I therefore cannot do otherwise than divide the House on this proposal.

MR. PIRIE: I am quite sure that the right hon. Gentleman did not mean to impute that we were seeking popularity by the course we are pursuing. There are one or two points which I desire to clear up in reference to Scotch barracks, especially the Piershill barracks. I understood it was the intention to withdraw the cavalry regiment. I have seen barracks for cavalry regiments in Ireland to which Piershill Barracks would be an absolute shame. Surely, if in Dublin and other parts of Ireland thousands and thousands of pounds are to be spent on barracks, we might have something more than £45,000 for these barracks in Scotland. We are told that we shall probably get £110,000 or £120,000 for barracks in Scotland, but I would point out that there is £750,000 put down for Ireland. The hon. Gentleman made use of the argument that concentration demanded that little money should be spent in Scotland. There are people who advocate that the Scottish district should be made the headquarters, but surely we are entitled to receive at least the same treatment as other districts. We have several sites for large camps, and one of our camps is never furnished with the number of troops in the summer which it can accommodate; and until we see our resources made the best use of we cannot do otherwise than continue to raise such points as we are raising to-night. I maintain that the troops quartered in Scotland have a right to the same treatment as those in any other part of the United Kingdom. This neglect of the just demand of Scotland is not only exemplified as regards this point, but very little indeed of the £3,000,000 for naval works will be spent in Scotland.

*MR. HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs): I desire to draw the attention of the Government to the desirability of establishing barracks in Dingwall. Dingwall is the

county town of Ross-shire. It might be called the cradle of the Seaforth Highlanders. The people there are justly proud of their gallant and distinguished Highland regiment. If it be an object of the War Office to strengthen the Army by the enlistment of Highlanders, there can be no doubt that the erection of suitable barracks for the Seaforths in Dingwall would tend greatly to facilitate the realisation of that object, for it would give an impetus to recruiting in the Highlands. I think that is a circumstance which ought not to be lost sight of by the War Office. What is the present condition of things with regard to Dingwall? You have barracks at Fort George, about thirty miles from Dingwall,—a very inconvenient and entirely isolated station. This renders the transport of the battalions very expensive indeed.

THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! I find that the words of the Amendment are "in or near Edinburgh." The hon. Member is therefore out of order in referring to Dingwall.

DR. CLARK (Caithness): With regard to Piershill barracks, they are in such an insanitary and unsuitable condition that when they are examined it will be found that the cost of putting them into proper condition will be more than they are worth, and you will probably require to have new barracks erected at a cost of £150,000. Whatever the views of the War Office may be, I suppose they will have to deal with the Treasury, and as far as Scotland is concerned we cannot expect to be treated in a fair manner by the Treasury. But this is a matter affecting the health of the troops. The barracks are utterly unsuitable, and we have no business to take men into the army and lodge them worse than we lodge prisoners. I hope the War Office will bring pressure to bear on the Treasury to get them to put these barracks into decent condition at any rate.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 47; Noes, 124. (Division List, No. 312.)

AYES.

Allen, Wm. (Newc.-und.-Lyme)
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. J. Blair (Clackm)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Billson, Alfred

Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Broadhurst, Henry
Caldwell, James
Channing, Francis Allston
Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)

Crilly, Daniel
Davitt, Michael
Dewar, Arthur
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.

Mr. Buchanan.

Doogan, P. C.
Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hazell, Walter
Hedderwick, Thomas Charles H
Hogan, James Francis
Holden, Sir Angus
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, W. (Carnarvonshire)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lambert, George

Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
Leng, Sir John
Macaleese, Daniel
McCrae, George
McLeod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Montagu, Sir S. (Whitechapel)
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
O'Connor, J. (Wicklow, W.)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Shaw, Chas. E. (Stafford)

Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire).
Steadman, William Charles
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Williams, John Carvell (Notts).
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.).

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Buchanan and Mr.
Pirie.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold, Alfred
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe
Bethell, Commander
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, A. Montagu
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Chaloner, Capt. R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Columb, Sir J. Charles Ready
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd)
Cox, Irwin Edward (Bainbridge)
Curzon, Viscount
Denny, Colonel
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donkin, Richard Sim
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, William Theodore
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William H.
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes

Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gilliat, John Saunders
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Hamond, Sir Chas. (Newcastle)
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Rbt. Wm.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hatch, Ernest Fred. Geo.
Heaton, John Henniker
Henderson, Alexander
Hermion-Hodge, R. Trotter
Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampstd.)
Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
Howard, Joseph
Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kimber, Henry
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lecky, Rt. Hon. William Edw. H.
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swans.)
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
Lowe, Francis William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maclure, Sir John William
McKillop, James
Milton, Viscount
Monk, Charles James
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert

Morrison, Walter
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute).
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Priestley, Sir W. O. (Edin.)
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward.
Purvis, Robert
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Charles T.
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney).
Round, James
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Rutherford, John
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse).
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thomas M.
Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand).
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strauss, Arthur
Thornton, Percy M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Valentia, Viscount
Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm.)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wil-on, John (Falkirk)
Wrightson, Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.).

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

MR. WARNER: The object of the Amendment which I propose to move is to give the House some idea of where the money voted in this Bill goes to. The Schedule is very meagre and very insufficient, and my Amendment will enable the House to see where the money voted is to be spent, and how much is to be spent on different places abroad. There are a variety of ways of spending money under this Bill, and in some cases, perhaps, money may be spent uselessly, which the House would be sure to find fault with if it had an opportunity. Therefore, I think it is very essential

that before money is expended the details should be placed on the table of the House of Commons. There was a case the other day which was very ably brought forward by the hon. and gallant Member for Yarmouth as to the extraordinary manner in which the Engineering Department spent money at Esquimalt. It was only by chance, and by the very careful work of the hon. and gallant Member, that this matter ever came before the House. If my Amendment be carried the House will have an opportunity of finding out about such jobs as that which

was carried out in that case. Of course it may be said that foreign Powers would know where we are spending this money, but that is an old excuse. The fortifications proposed abroad have been described by the hon. Gentlemen as platforms for guns. These are things that can be so easily seen even by ships passing by, and you have to employ such a large number of men on the works that it is perfectly ridiculous to say that foreign Powers would not find out what was going on. Such an argument cannot really be seriously held. Then again there are several places where we object to money being spent, such as Wei-hai-wei, but if a blank cheque is drawn for this money it may be spent there. We had a long discussion this afternoon as to Nigeria. Have we any guarantee that the banks of the Niger are not to be fortified? This is a serious question, because the War Office has not always been careful, and has put up works where they were not wanted. Even in England we have the Martello towers, and we have had cases ever since of defensive works being put up all over the world which have proved useless. I think the House ought to have a right to investigate the expenditure of this large sum of money, and I therefore propose to add in Clause 1, page 1, line 14, after "issued" the following words, "But no expenditure shall be incurred under this Act abroad until twenty-one days after a Return of such expenditure has been laid on the Table stating the place where such expenditure is to be made." I move the Amendment in order that this House should have some power of complaining about what is proposed to be done if it does not approve of it. There is one argument which may be used against the Amendment, and that is that the House is not always sitting; but no works are going to be suddenly put up. The works are to last for many years, and we ought to now know what we are going to do during the six months after the rising of the House. Next year there will be plenty of time to lay on the Table all the details we require. It would not be necessary to deal with every item, but the sum to be expended and the place, should be given to the House before the money is expended. I hope the Amendment will be accepted.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 14, after 'issued' to insert 'But no expenditure shall be incurred under this Act abroad until twenty-one days after a

Mr. Warner.

return of such expenditure has been laid on the Table stating the place where such expenditure is to be made."—(*Mr. Warner.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. WYNDHAM: I am afraid I shall not be able to accept the Amendment. I would point out to the hon. Member that his Amendment is a great deal wider than his speech. All his arguments had reference only to defence works, but the Amendment lays down that the House is to take cognisance of and control expenditure abroad. I would point out that I have already put down a great many more details in the Bill than it originally contained. I would also remind the hon. Member that I have promised to give the House every year the approximate amount spent in the previous year, and the estimated amount to be spent in the existing year. A Return is also given to the Public Accounts Committee each year as to barracks, and every shilling spent during the year under that head is accounted for, and through that channel the House will get information as to the manner in which these sums are expended. The Amendment of the hon. Member is really an alternative proposal for control. This Bill is a continuation of the Act of 1897, and we have followed the precedent of that Act, the principle of which was Treasury control. The plan which we now adopt has been pursued for eleven years. It is to pass the scheme and then to give control to the Treasury. Moreover, the House has already affirmed that principle, because it has not only passed the Second Reading of the Bill, which embodies this precedent and not the precedent of the Naval Works Act; but the Committee has this evening passed lines which recite the provisions of the Military Works Act of 1897. And I cannot think that the Committee, having affixed its sanction to one plan of control, will now suddenly add on the top of it another plan which is almost inconsistent with it and could not give the House any more power. The hon. Member has also anticipated another strong argument, and that is that this House does not sit for a considerable period of the year. Supposing, under this form of Treasury control, we give each year full details, it is for the Treasury to judge whether our proposals are economical or not.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: I feel very strongly the refusal of the Government

to give the House of Commons the information as to these "defence works," and I think that we should mention the fact on this Amendment because there are those among us who do not like to take the responsibility of voting on these words. I do not believe in the necessity for concealment in regard to this matter. Such concealment is not practised by other nations, although it is perfectly true that they keep people away from their fortifications, but that is a different thing from attempting to conceal the places where money is to be spent. It appears to me perfectly idle on the part of the Government to adopt such a policy. Nobody is kept in the dark by it except the House itself, and I myself do not believe that the object of it is to prevent foreign Powers from knowing it, but merely the House of Commons. There are some very delicate matters to be considered when you are settling the places where you are going to put men and guns, and those delicate and difficult questions are just the questions which this House desires to discuss, and I cannot help thinking that the Government has an interest in concealing these matters from the House of Commons. I am so persuaded of the importance of knowing on what class of places it is intended that this defence money shall be spent, that I must support the Amendment of my hon. friend who sits beside me. I will put the matter plainly. My main objection would be met, as would the objections of many hon. Members on this side, if the Under Secretary would make a clean breast of the thing to-night and would tell us what the intentions of the Government are in this matter. The annual Return which is promised will give us no details with regard to the main ground of this large expenditure. I heartily support the proposal contended for by my hon. friend.

*SIR J. COLOMB: My hon. friend the Under Secretary has stated that in this matter the Government are following the precedent of 1888. I have not had the opportunity of referring to that Act since my hon. friend addressed the House, but the point is, in my opinion, not so much whether it is contained in the Schedule or not, but whether the House should have the information from authoritative sources. I would point out to my hon. friend that he is wrong if he supposes that on that occasion the House of Commons had not the full information before it when it was asked to vote that money.

If he refers to the memorandum of the Estimates of the year 1888-9, he will find a statement there at page 16, showing that it was then considered essential that the House of Commons should know it gives the names of the places and the estimated cost of the works and buildings, and the barracks and the estimated cost of the heavy guns and quick-firing guns and ammunition, etc.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR: I think that the question we are discussing is a wider one than would appear from the Amendment itself. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Forest of Dean has given me a clue, because he drew a contrast between defence works and guns. I cannot follow the Under Secretary for War in the contrast he drew between the control of this House of Commons and that of the Treasury; but perhaps as that refers to the Military Works Act of 1897, that may be more conveniently discussed on a later Amendment. I think this House ought to have full control over the expenditure, though I am afraid the Amendment before the Committee will be ineffective in that respect. There are two classes of Papers which are laid on the Table of this House, one of which does not become effective until it has lain on the Table a certain number of days, and therefore would not allow that criticism of the procedure which is indicated by my hon. friend's Amendment.

MR. WARNER: I know very well that this Amendment will not be effective in giving all the control we should like to have, but we get some control by it, and if it is pressed we should get the advantage of knowing what is going on. I know it is only half a loaf, but that is better than no bread, and although the House could not stop this particular expenditure, it could make it unpleasant for the right hon. Gentleman, and that would curtail the expenditure. I moved this Amendment in its present mild form in the hope that the Government would accept it; but if they will not accept these words I will accept any others which will give us the same opportunity.

MR. BUCHANAN: I perceive the object of my hon. friend, but I do not think his Amendment will carry it out. We have no reason to believe anything else than that all the money of which we have no details is going to be spent abroad, but we want more particulars than we have got. What I venture to point out is that if we can get more de-

tails, we shall in that way probably get more effective control than we shall by this Amendment.

Question put and negatived.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Schedule :—

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR: The Amendment which I desire to move is on the defence works. The Government has drawn a rigid distinction in this Bill between money provided for buildings and that provided for defence works. When we come to the defence works in the Schedule we find there are no data whatever. Comparing the two administrations, we find that of the Navy has in a high degree the confidence of the country, which that of the Army has not. That is due to its being the rule of the Admiralty to give the details of Navy expenditure. It might be worth while for the War Office to take similar steps with regard to defence works. There is no justification, either on grounds of national safety or otherwise, for this concealment. There is no reason why details should not be given. I quite agree that it is inconvenient to raise the question in this way, but as the Bill is drawn there is no other way of doing so. There is no doubt whatever that during the last ten or fifteen years two things have been steadily going on. In the first place, there has been a very large increase in our military and naval expenditure; and, in the second place, there has been, and is at the present time, less desire in the House to criticise that expenditure. I translate that into loss of that minute control which, I maintain, it is so essential that the House should retain. I do not believe that the Treasury is able, unless it is supported by this House, to exercise that control which ought to be exercised over the great spending Departments of the State; neither do I believe that there is any justification whatever for withholding information in respect of these works from the House. I say this House is shirking the responsibility which it alone can exercise, and that every information should be laid before it, in order that it may be able to criticise the policy of the Government.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 9, to leave out the words—

"1. Defence £ £ £
works... 1,000,000 | 1,120,000 | 2,120,000."

—(Captain Sinclair.)

Mr. Buchanan.

Question proposed—"That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Schedule."

*SIR J. COLOMB: We have now arrived at the very marrow of the discussion. Does not the Under Secretary recognise this, by taking this million in connection with the new departure in China, where we know expenditure out of Estimates has already been incurred? Taking these things into consideration, I would ask my hon. friend whether he would not shorten the discussion by simply telling us whether the Government intend to spend any portion of this £1,000,000 at Weihai-wei, and if so, I do not ask within £100,000, but can he tell us roughly how much? All that is asked is where this £1,000,000 is going to be spent and how. The Under-Secretary for War tells us that it is dangerous to give any information as to the places where these earth-works are to be erected. But I see no reason why the War Office should not follow the example of the Admiralty? People often wonder why the Admiralty is so popular. It is because the Admiralty has long ago learned that to come forward with a plain statement which people could understand is the way to get Votes from this House and applause from the country. This War Office policy of erecting defence works was begun at a time when it was thought that steam would revolutionise the principles of strategy in naval warfare. But steam has not done so, and the principles of strategy in naval warfare remain the same as before. Attacks by hostile fleets or expeditionary forces are just as impossible now as they were before the days of steam, if our fleet is sufficient to match the enemy's fleet, and to render it powerless and destroy its mobility. The fact is that the Government was weak enough to give in to the clamour of Members representing commercial ports to put up fortifications and defence works in those ports. [Cries of "Divide."] I would remind hon. Gentlemen who cry "divide," and are willing to vote a million blindfolded, that, owing to economic conditions, this country will soon be put into a tight corner to get any men for its Army at all, and therefore it is very necessary to inquire very carefully into every proposal which will divert money from improving the position of the soldier and making the service attractive. To return to the question of the defence of commercial ports.

As I understand, the essence of the value of a commercial port is that ships should be able to go in and out of it freely, and if the port is only protected by land defence, and a hostile vessel takes up its position in the offing outside the range of the guns, it would prevent that. There is another point worthy of consideration. If the moral effect exercised by our sea supremacy is sufficient to deter a vessel from taking up a position in the offing, no vessel could attack the port. Therefore, however we look at it, we come to this—that we must rely upon the moral effect of our naval power mainly for the protection of our ports and harbours. With respect to Wei-hai-wei, it seems to me that the acquisition of that place, for political reasons, was thoroughly good; but to embark upon permanent expenditure upon it is, in my opinion, a thoroughly bad policy. I urge the Under Secretary to examine very closely the arguments of his advisers, because, in my opinion, the naval view put forward by the War Office is unsound. In the past it was not to be wondered at, because the Navy had been allowed to go down, but there is now no excuse for the present policy.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: I do not think this House ought to vote a million of money without having some sort of idea of the extent to which the defence works on which it will be spent will involve garrisons. With regard to Wei-hai-wei, as objection has not been taken to the statement which was made, we must assume that some of the money will be spent upon that place. Since Wei-hai-wei has been occupied—as many think for Parliamentary and political reasons, rather than for reasons of defence—the whole situation there has been changed. In the face of the consolidation of Russian power in that neighbourhood on land, it is evident that no effective naval strength can be exercised in the Gulf of Pe-chi-li which shall have much influence on the power of Russia at Peking. Therefore we have to consider the occupation of Wei-hai-wei, not as an answer to the occupation of Port Arthur, but from the standpoint of a secondary naval base. We do not know, however, whether the War Office are accepting that position, or whether they are extending it. Of course, the policy of our drilling the Chinese police there has gone by the board.

COMMANDER BETHELL (York, E.R., Holderness): I desire to say a few words in reply to my right hon. friend the Member for the Forest of Dean. I understood him to say that Wei-hai-wei is of no value.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: I did not say "of no value." I expressly excepted the secondary naval base position.

COMMANDER BETHELL: Wei-hai-wei, at any rate as a secondary naval base, is unquestionably of great value, and in this respect I am in opposition to my hon. and gallant friend below me (Sir John Colomb). It affords a singularly good anchorage for vessels of the largest size, and comparatively few guns will, from the anchorage, command the whole of the mainland opposite. I do not believe that it requires expensive fortification.

*SIR J. COLOMB: Does my hon. and gallant friend deny that the mainland commands the island?

COMMANDER BETHELL: The Chinese Fleet, from the anchorage, drove the Japanese Army away from the plain behind the hills.

MR. BUCHANAN: I do not want to participate in the controversy as to the strategic value of Wei-hai-wei, but I think it is undoubtedly the fact that the mainland commands the island. During the whole course of the discussion on the question of Wei-hai-wei this session, we have never been able to get from the Government anything like a clear and complete account of what they intend to do. I think we are entitled to some information as to the purposes for which this million of money is to be spent, the places in which it is to be spent, and the amount which is to be spent in each place. On a previous occasion I asked the Under Secretary for War what were the valid reasons why the Government declined to give us some explanation. In one of the previous discussions on the Bill, the hon. Gentleman appealed to the precedent of the Military Works Act of 1897, and stated that we were following that precedent. But the hon. Gentleman is mistaken when he says that that precedent was not challenged; because, upon the Second Reading, this very question was raised by an Amendment by my hon. friend the Member for West Islington (Mr. Lough), who submitted that we should not consent to the Second Reading

until further information was given. We resisted it to the best of our ability, and we resist it now. But let us go a step further, and see what other arguments are brought forward by the hon. Gentleman. We have had the old, stale argument about the necessity for concealing information from foreign powers. That argument, however, is of no value whatever. Foreign Governments are free to inspect our dockyards in every detail. Their representatives go to Woolwich and see all the work that is going on there; and is it, therefore, to be imagined for a moment that, with the enterprise of the Press throughout the world, they do not know where we are setting up large earthworks, both in foreign and home stations? It is surely desirable that the country, when it is voting this money, should know the purposes for which it is to be spent. Are the War Office authorities afraid of the public and of the House of Commons? If not, why do they deny to us the details with regard to the proposed expenditure of this million of money? As representatives of the people, we are here to exercise control over the money voted, and to examine the purposes for which it is spent. I say, therefore, it is contrary to all constitutional principles that a sum should be voted for a Department, however ably that Department is managed, without any knowledge whatever of the purposes for which it is to be spent. I have no doubt that the War Office is as capable, and certainly as honest, as any other department of the State; but I would not trust angels or archangels to spend millions of money of their own free will. It is contrary to the constitutional principles upon which this House is founded, contrary to constitutional duty, and contrary to all principles of financial control.

MR. WYNDHAM: As far as the finance of this Bill is concerned, the Treasury has absolute control over every halfpenny. As to the allocation of the money, the Government rely, not upon the Treasury, but upon their expert advisers. The hon. and gallant Member for Yarmouth has drawn a very marked distinction between the popularity of the Navy and the popularity of the Army, and declared that a great deal of the popularity of the Navy is due to the fact that the Admiralty give the House much fuller details than the War Office in respect of defence works. But if blame is to be imputed for re-

Mr. Buchanan.

ticence—and I do not think it will be—let it be put on the right shoulders. Who dictates the policy of the Government in regard to defence works? It is dictated almost wholly by the naval experts, and it is they who counsel reticence. Then it has been said that for precedent the Government must go back to the Defence Act of Lord Palmerston. Lord Palmerston has always been held up as a shocking example of following a policy of bricks and mortar to create a moral effect. With such a policy, the more detail given the greater the effect; but that is not the purpose of the Government. We wish to carry out in a businesslike manner the recommendations of those to whom we must look for advice. These defence works are earthworks on which guns are to be mounted; and, without a murmur, the Committee passed Vote IX. for stores, although I explained most explicitly that a sum was taken for guns under the Defence Act. If hon. Members do not want to know what guns are to be provided, they ought to allow reticence to be observed about the places at which they are to be mounted.

MR. BUCHANAN: We asked for the Report of Sir H. Brackenbury, and it was refused.

MR. WYNDHAM: Hon. Members are asking for the most secret document in existence at this moment. We are told, more especially by sailors, that they do not wish foreign fleets to know exactly how many guns, and of what size, are to be mounted at different places. It is also said that we give no particulars as to garrisons in different parts of the world. We have no objection to give the garrisons, but there is the greatest objection to give such financial indication as will enable anyone who chooses to do so to calculate the number and sizes of the guns. I am sorry to find that I cannot respond to the appeal of the hon. and gallant Member for Great Yarmouth, to indicate how this one million is to be divided among the various kinds of ports, the classification of which has been indicated. I must ask the Committee to support me in maintaining this attitude of reticence. It is a very grave matter when the Minister in charge of the policy of the Government is challenged again and again to give information which he is informed cannot be given without detriment to the public interest. Within the narrow limits I was

allowed on the Second Reading of the Bill, I stated that the greater portion of the three millions would go to make secure our principal naval bases, our secondary naval bases, coaling stations, and commercial ports, and that only a comparatively small portion would be left for the defence of commercial ports. These services are approved by all our naval advisers. I have stretched my tether to the utmost in making this announcement. The hon. and gallant Member has also criticised the classification of the ports, and said that every one of the reasons adduced in support of them are naval reasons. They are the reasons given by the naval advisers of the Government, and the classification is the classification of the naval advisers. It is a naval view submitted to the War Office.

*SIR J. COLOMB: Is it not the naval view of what the War Office should do, provided the War Office pay for it, not the Navy?

MR. WYNDHAM: There is no such restriction. The two Departments are working in perfect harmony; in this question of defence works the War Office

is acting on naval advice. I have never been reticent as to the subject of garrisons. I have told the House that we aim at having nineteen white and twelve coloured battalions abroad to garrison the stations that are held in order to fulfil the conditions of the Imperial scheme of defence. Therefore, no one need be alarmed by the idea that in passing this Vote I am pledging the Committee and the country to increase the garrisons or the number of garrisons, because the whole scheme is one scheme by which the Department is prepared to stand or fall, believing that if the interests of the Empire are to be adequately safeguarded we must accept the advice of our naval and military experts on matters of such vital importance. When we have the work done it does not matter. What we object to is to give five years' notice of our intentions. When the work is completed we shall not be afraid of its being investigated even by those who may, in an unfortunate hour, become our opponents. But until then we insist upon keeping our intentions to ourselves.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 143; Noes, 48. (Division List, No. 313.)

AYES.

Arnold, Alfred
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Mane'r
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, A. Montagu
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austin (Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse

Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Curzon, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of
Denny, Colonel
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J.
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Fry, Lewis
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (C. of Lond.)
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans)
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gilliat, John Saunders
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. Geo.'s
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greville, Hon. Ronald

Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Rbt. Wm.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hatch, Ernest Fred. Geo.
Hermon-Hodge, Robert Trotter
Hill, Sir Edw. Stock (Bristol)
Howard, Joseph
Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnstone, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Corn
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lecky, Rt. Hn. William Edw. H.
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewellyn, Sir Dillwyn- (Swans.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverp'l)
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maclure, Sir John William
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Killip, James
Manners, Lord Edward Wm. J.
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
Milton, Viscount
Milward, Colonel Victor
Monk, Charles James
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy

More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pollock, Harry Frederick
 Priestley, Sir W. Overend (Edin.)
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Renshaw, Charles Bine
 Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)

Rothschild, Hon. Lionel W.
 Round, James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Rutherford, John
 Ryder, John H. Dudley
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, E. J. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James

Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Whiteley, H. (Ash'n-under-L.)
 Williams, J. Powell (Birm.)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. S.
 Wrightson, Thomas
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allen, W. (Newc-under-Lyme)
 Asher, Alexander
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. J. B. (Clackm.)
 Billson, Alfred
 Caldwell, James
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clark, Dr. G. B. (Caithness-sh.)
 Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
 Crombie, John William
 Davitt, Michael
 Dillon, John
 Doogan, P. C.
 Duckworth, James
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Foster, Sir W. (Derby Co.)

Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale
 Hazell, Walter
 Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, W. (Carnarvonshire)
 Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hn. Sir U.
 Lambert, George
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
 Lloyd-George, David
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Crae, George
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand

Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr)
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Strachey, Edward
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Tennant, Harold John
 Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Captain Sinclair and Mr.
 Buchanan.

SIR J. FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.): I shall not trouble the Committee for more than a few moments, but this is the only opportunity we shall have of urging upon the Government the desirability of improving barracks in the interests of the respectability and the encouragement of morality among the men. We have been told that military experts are not unanimous upon the point of subdividing barrack-rooms, but surely it is rather too much to insist upon absolute unanimity among military experts before you can resolve upon any reform. You cannot expect absolute unanimity among any class of men, but where there is a predominance of sentiment in any one direction it is generally recognised that the minority should give way to the majority. There is a considerable consensus of opinion that it is very desirable that a rather better class of recruits should be attracted to the Army. Nothing would more conduce to that end than that the conditions of residence in barracks should be such as not to shock the feelings of the better class. In my Amendment I do not insist upon having

cubicles introduced in barrack rooms as a universal principle, but that the plan should be adopted in certain barracks. The other point is that of temperance rooms. I marvel at the manner in which the War Office is setting its face against the provision of separate rooms for abstainers. Without being in the least an advocate of compulsory abstinence, I do think it is a good thing that young men in the Army should be encouraged to abstain from strong drink. It has been objected that this system would lead to "cliquism," but those who control the Army in India, where such provision is made, do not see any such danger. Lord Roberts put himself at the head of the movement, and his successor, Sir George White, not only carried it on, but has advocated it in the strongest terms, while Major General Trotter considers it a most valuable and necessary reform. I urge that in these new barracks this principle should be tried.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 10, after the word 'barracks,' to insert the words 'including

recreation rooms for abstainers, and sub-division of sleeping rooms in certain barracks, and.'”—(*Sir J. Fergusson.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

MR. WYNTHAM: I think these words are somewhat broad, and might be held to imply an obligation to introduce separate rooms in any barracks proposed under the Bill; therefore I hope the Amendment will not be pressed to a Division. My right hon. friend will readily see that the experiment can only be tried at barracks where there are dining-halls. It is the intention of the Secretary of State for War to try the experiment of cubicles in the barracks at Woking and Dublin, and as the experiment of dining-halls there has led to the adoption of the principle in all new barracks, so it may be, and I hope will be, that the experiment there of cubicles will lead to their general adoption at no distant date. I am not in a position to accept the Amendment, because it would tie us down rigidly, but I would ask my right hon. friend to accept my promise that the experiment is to be tried. As to the proposal of a separate club for abstainers, my right hon. friend has himself shown how many officers have advocated this reform, and although there is not now a consensus of opinion, I would put it to him that he might be content to leave the matter in their hands, considering that they have every facility for urging their views upon those with whom the adoption of the policy rests.

MR. PIRIE: My only regret with regard to this Amendment is that it is scarcely strong enough. I should like to have seen an Amendment moved in favour of these Army temperance rooms being provided in all large barracks. There should also be a clear distinction drawn between the two subjects of temperance rooms and cubicles, because of the difference in the relative expenditure involved. A very moderate expenditure would be necessary to provide separate temperance rooms, but the expenditure on cubicles is a very different matter. The statement that the provision of such rooms would lead to “cliquism” in the Army is refuted by the testimony of commanding officer after commanding officer. Perhaps a remark of the Secre-

tary of State for War may explain in some degree the position of the War Office upon the matter. Speaking of these proposed new barracks, he said:

“It is quite true that up to the present time military authorities have not seen their way to give the members of the Army Temperance Association that separate room which they so much desire. Sir George White knows that although there may be unanimity in this room upon that point, that unanimity does not exist everywhere.”

Reading between the lines it is very clear that Lord Lansdowne was referring to a want of unanimity in this matter in the War Office. There is a general feeling among the Service Members in favour of the Amendment. I say it is the duty of the House to insist upon this reform being carried out.

MR. HEDDERWICK, in supporting the Amendment, expressed his regret that the Under Secretary for War could not see his way to accept it. Temperance should be encouraged in every way in the Army. He believed, however, it was notorious that much of the good work that was done in India in promoting sobriety in the Army was entirely lost when the regiments were removed to stations where, through want of a room for the abstainers, their association was necessarily broken up.

SIR J. FERGUSSON: My wish is, not to gain a victory in Debate, but to accomplish a great Army reform. Separate rooms for abstainers have been provided in the Army in India, and punishments, both summary and at court martial, have greatly decreased, while the health of the Army has immensely increased. I think it is most unfortunate, therefore, that owing to the prejudice at the War Office—possibly against Lord Roberts, who was the pioneer of the movement—the Government feel themselves obliged to oppose a movement which has been so conspicuously successful, and has so much to recommend it. I will, however, withdraw the Amendment, for to have it negatived would retard the temperance movement in the Army for a long time. In seeking to promote the success of this movement I prefer to rely upon public opinion, which has so often been too strong for Governments; but I regret that my hon. friend should be instructed to oppose the motion, because I believe that he is personally in favour of it. I

believe, moreover, that if the opinion of the country could be sufficiently aroused no Government would be strong enough to resist the proposal.

*MAJOR JAMESON (Clare, W.): I have listened with some interest to the right hon. Baronet, and I am bound to say that I have as much at heart the good of the Army, in which I served for many years, as he has. But if the temperance party desire to impart their convictions to the other soldiers, surely the proper way is not for them to shut themselves up in a room by themselves, but to sit side by side with their comrades and endeavour to instil some of their temperance opinions into their minds. But is it not a farce to think that you are bound to have one room for people who drink tea and another for those who drink beer?

AN HON. MEMBER: We have it here.

*MAJOR JAMESON: The hon. Gentleman who makes that remark may sit in the tea-room, but I will sit in the other. If there is good in the temperance party, let them mix with so-called intemperate people like myself, who are not total abstainers. I deny, however, that the British Army is intemperate, and I deny that you want any special legislation for the drunkards in the Army. The commanding officer of every regiment is perfectly able to deal with drunkenness, and we do not want Gentlemen on either side of the House to say how they shall be dealt with. It would be casting a stigma on the British Army to separate those who are called temperance people from those who are supposed by the temperance party to be intemperate. As far as I am concerned, I have seen no intemperance in the British Army worth mentioning—far less, indeed, than you see in London and all the great cities. If the Government are going in for local option in the Army I wish them joy of their policy, but I would appeal to them not to go in for fads. It would appear that the temperance party want to shut themselves up in one room while I and others are to wallow in our sins in another.

MR. WILLIAM JOHNSTON (Belfast, S.): I rise to express my regret that the hon. and gallant Gentleman who has just spoken, who is one of the directors of a great distillery company, should have thought it his duty to lecture those who

are anxious to promote temperance in the Army.

*COLONEL BLUNDELL (Lancashire, Ince): I cannot support the Amendment of my right hon. friend. It will not do to tie the hands of the War Office. Let them give a temperance room where they can, but do not bind them to do so. With regard to the cubicle system proposed, I regard it as generally impracticable.

MR. MADDISON: I rise to support this Amendment. It is not, I submit, an attempt to impose a fad on the British Army, unless it is a fad to protect youngsters of seventeen or eighteen years of age from temptation. Everybody who has worked in the promotion of social and temperance reform knows the great difficulties which meet a young man in starting life. Everything depends upon the people he gets amongst to begin with, and, as the right hon. Baronet said, if a room could be set apart for the teetotalers and the opportunity given to them of gathering amongst themselves, good habits would be engendered at the very start and many a young fellow would be saved from evil-doing. The hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill asked the right hon. Baronet to be content with the influence of the officers whose names have been mentioned, but it is quite obvious that the influence of these officers is not paramount, or the scheme which they thoroughly support would have been put into operation. It has been clearly proved, as hon. Members know very well, that in India the very system which the right hon. Baronet wants to introduce into the new barracks has been in operation for a number of years, and has proved absolutely successful. The War Office apparently agree with a great authority on the Navy in this House, who told us some time ago that if he was in a tight corner he would prefer to have scallywags with him. But does history justify that statement? Havelock's men were not scallywags, and the men who won the battles of the Commonwealth were not scallywags, and one could quote a great many similar cases. The hon. and gallant Member (Major Jameson) has declared that he never saw much drunkenness in the Army, but the facts and figures point in another direction. We know too well that the Army frequently turns out moral wrecks. For

Sir J. Fergusson.

my part I shall vote, as I rarely do, with the right hon. Baronet, and with very great pleasure.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I only desire to say one sentence in support of this Amendment. I have always opposed large expenditure on military and naval works, but when it comes to a question of improving the sanitary conditions of the barracks or of encouraging men who are inclined, under great difficulties, to practise temperance, I must confess that my strong sympathies are in favour of such expenditure, and I shall therefore support the Amendment of the right hon. Baronet.

MAJOR GOLDSWORTHY (Hammer-smith): I regret that the right hon. Baronet cannot withdraw his Amendment, because after the statements which have been made by the Under Secretary for War there is no doubt that it is unnecessary. I believe everyone in this House is in favour of temperance, but I have no sympathy with those men who are teetotalers simply, as they think, because they get no temptation. Let us have a little backbone, so that the people may see that they can resist temptation. I am certain that there are many Members who, whilst in favour of temperance, would be unwilling to support an Amendment of this description.

MR. DOUGHTY (Great Grimsby): I think the right hon. Baronet has made out a strong case for his proposal, and I fail to see why the Government should object to the Amendment. Now that we are going to spend such large sums in building new barracks we should take the opportunity to provide recreation rooms for the large and increasing number of abstainers in the Army.

*MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS (Nottingham, Mansfield): I wish to give my voice in support of the Amendment, and to point out the absolute groundlessness of the contention of the hon. Gentleman below me (Major Jameson) that this Amendment involves the principle of local option. On the contrary, there is nothing whatever prohibitive in it; it is only an enabling provision. Having regard to the evils connected with the military system and the strong temptations to which young soldiers are exposed, it is our bounden duty, as far as we possibly can, to employ remedial agencies. I should, therefore, be delighted if this Bill, containing many things to which I object, had at least one provision which could be supported by the friends of temperance and morality.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 44; Noes, 103. (Division List, No. 314.)

AYES.

Allen, W. (Newcastle-under-Lyme)
Asher, Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. B. (Clackmannanshire)
Brassey, Albert
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Caldwell, James
Channing, Francis Allston
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Doogan, P. C.
Doughty, George
Duckworth, James
Gedge, Sydney
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. J.
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale
Hazel, Walter

Hedderwick, Thomas Charles H.
Horniman, Frederick John
Joicey, Sir James
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
Macaleese, Daniel
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, James
Maddison, Fred
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr)
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Pirie, Duncan V.

Shaw, Charles E. (Stafford)
Smith, James P. (Lanarkshire)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Tennant, Harold John
Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir James Fergusson and
Mr. William Johnston.

NOES.

Arnold, Alfred
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barton, Dunbar Plunkett

Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)

Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birmingham)
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worcester)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rn. Hon. Jesse

Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
Curzon, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of
Denny, Colonel
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Haynes
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Fry, Lewis
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lnd.)
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. Geo.)
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. R. W.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jebb, Richard Claverhouse

Jessel, Captain Herbert M.
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lecky, Rt. Hon. William E. H.
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Madona, John Cumming
Maclure, Sir John William
Manners, Lord E. W. J.
Milward, Colonel Victor
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Pollock, Harry Frederick
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)

Rutherford, John
Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
Seely, Charles Hilton
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Edw. J. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir J. M.
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, W. E. Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
Williams, Joseph Powell- (Birm)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyndham-Quin, Maj. W. H.
Wyllivill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

Schedule :—

MR. BUCHANAN: I desire to call attention to the item of £1,600,000 with regard to Salisbury Plain. It is a question of giving the War Office a vast sum of money to deal with without any control whatever. No detailed estimates are laid before the House; we have no particulars as to how many barracks are to be built, or for how many troops, or anything else. We certainly ought to have some details. Two years ago we were told there was no intention of erecting a great number of permanent barracks on Salisbury Plain, as had been done at Aldershot. Now there has been some alteration on the part of the War Office, and the type of Aldershot is to be followed.

MR. WYNDHAM: I would remind the hon. Member that the promise to which he refers was made on the 27th March, 1897; that is before this House had sanctioned the increase of the Army which gave rise to this barracks scheme. When that addition to the Army was made we had to consider where we should build barracks to accommodate the force. It was considered to be very much more economical to build on a site we already had, and that is the course to be pursued. The hon. Member has asked what troops we are building for. We are providing for six or seven battalions of infantry, and for six battalions of cavalry.

MR. WARNER: I am sorry to hear that we have not really got an increase

of the Army, but an increase of the units, and that these barracks are apparently for the extra units of the paper Army. I rise to move to insert after the word "artillery" the word "cavalry." My reason for doing so is the great loss there is in horseflesh at these camps and manœuvres in consequence of the want of housing accommodation for the horses. Seven Life Guards lost sixteen horses in the manœuvres last year. The men have tents over them, but the horses are turned out in the open, and that causes, if not the actual loss of the horses, a very great depreciation in their value. As Salisbury Plain is used more for cavalry manœuvres than anything else, this is a very important point, and I move accordingly.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 1, after the word 'infantry,' to insert the word 'cavalry.'"—(Mr. Warner.)

Question, "That the word 'cavalry' be there inserted," put and negatived.

*SIR J. COLOMB: I want to know what is the principle upon which the Imperial Government are finding money to build barracks at Halifax. Halifax is a naval base. Esquimalt is a naval base. In regard to the latter, the Canadian Government not only have provided money for the defence of the place, but they actually pay for the garrison. If that principle is good on the Pacific seaboard, why is it not good on the Atlantic seaboard? Has there been any correspondence between the Colonial Office and the

Canadian Government asking the latter to apply to Halifax the principle which they accept with regard to Esquimalt?

MR. WYNDHAM: We have been in communication with the Canadian Government upon a number of subjects, and the allocation of burdens between the mother country and the colony must be part of general negotiations. The very fact that Canada has come forward and agreed to do so much at Esquimalt would naturally militate against her being urged to take up the other matter.

Schedule agreed to.

MR. BUCHANAN: The object of my Amendment is to make the schedule more precise. The words are very ambiguous. It was found last year that the words "ranges and manœuvring grounds" were taken to justify the War Office in purchasing the whole of the properties on Salisbury Plain, so that an important purchase amounting to £350,000 did not appear in the public accounts, and it was only by accident, so to speak, that we discovered that this large purchase had been made under the Military Works Act, 1897. It would be very much better that this statement of the purpose for which the money is wanted should be made definite and distinct.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, column 1, line 16, to leave out from 'including' to 'mobilisation' in line 17, both inclusive."—(Mr. Buchanan.)

Question proposed—"That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the schedule."

MR. WYNDHAM: The reason for the introduction of the words is that otherwise they would not apply to the sums in columns 3 and 4. I could, however, meet the hon. Member's point by putting an asterisk against those columns and a note at the bottom of the page. I will undertake to do that.

MR. PIRIE: Would the hon. Gentleman state where the money on ranges is to be spent, and whether any of it will be in Scotland?

MR. WYNDHAM: The hon. Member will recollect that on the Second Reading I pointed out that it was a matter of negotiation, and therefore it is quite impossible for me to indicate where the ranges will be.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn,

MR. BUCHANAN: I desire to move the Amendment standing in my name, and which I understand the Government will accept.

MR. WYNDHAM: I am quite prepared to accept the Amendment, although I think it is already provided for.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 21, at end, to add, 'No building will be undertaken which cannot be completed within the £4,000,000 asked for under this Act.'"—(Mr. Buchanan.)

Question, "That those words be there inserted," put, and agreed to.

*SIR J. COLOMB: I wish personally to thank my hon. friend for his courtesy and the manner in which he has answered every question. There is one point I should like to put, and that is whether the total sum of £4,000,000 is gross or net; that is, whether credit has been taken for barracks that are to be no longer used, and therefore sold, because there ought to be considerable receipts from that source.

MR. WYNDHAM: It will be seen that these sums apply to new works, and therefore the question of what will be made out of our old property does not arise in the schedule. There is a prospect of getting a certain sum back, but unfortunately in most cases we have only leasehold, and not freehold property.

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Bill reported; as amended, to be considered upon Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 296.)

IMPROVEMENT OF LAND (RE-COMMITTED) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the chair.

Clause 1:—

*MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): The practical effect of my first Amendment is to exclude from the operation of this new Bill the provisions of the Limited Owners' Residences Act,

1870 and 1871, and to confine the extension of the facilities for loans to landowners for improvements to the more especially agricultural and other improvements, such as buildings, bridges, jetties, roads, and other provisions which are of use to those who reside on the estate. This Act very rightly extends the power to authorise loans for useful improvements, which are urgently needed for the development of agriculture. The President of the Board of Agriculture sat with me on a Commission which recommended not only the extension of the powers as given by this Bill, but also the extension of the principle of loans of public money for this purpose, in addition to authorising the repayment of loans to be spread over a larger number of years than under the provisions of the preceding Acts. I contend that a very considerable extension is given to the powers of landowners to carry out improvements, and I would appeal to the House as to whether it is not reasonable to ask that one of the conditions of that extension should be improvements of practical value to those who dwell upon the estates in question. Of course, there are many such improvements, the most prominent among them being the provision of labourers' cottages, etc. The Chancellor of the Exchequer gave extremely weighty evidence upon this point, and his evidence is quoted in the second Report of the Agricultural Commission. In that Report, which was signed by the majority of the Commission, and upon which the Agricultural Rating Act of 1896 was based, the Chancellor of the Exchequer advocated a system of loans, and classified the improvements for which loans are urgently required for agriculture, and for the interests of the agricultural population, in this way: First, the erection and improvement of labourers' cottages; secondly, the subdivision of existing holdings; thirdly, the construction of light railways; and, fourthly, general agricultural improvements. The first and second of these objects which the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with all his great experience, based as it is upon his admirable management of his own estates, recommended, are improvements, surely, of far more importance for Parliament to authorise than the provision for the extension of mansion-houses. One of the reasons urged for the passing of the Limited Owners'

Mr. Channing.

Residences Act, in 1870, was that it would apply to Ireland and check absenteeism. But is it not pretty obvious, especially in the Eastern counties, that over-building has led to a great deal of absenteeism in England? It has led a great many landowners in the Eastern counties, in consequence of having houses far too large for them to keep up, to let those houses and to turn their estates into mere shooting preserves. Grave complaints have been made by the farmers in those districts that they are handed over to business men who come down from the city, and who have no interest in the district or in the welfare of the people, beyond the desire to take the largest quantity of game they possibly can. Moreover, these people generally get their supplies from London, and are very often a great nuisance to their neighbours, and their presence, so far from benefiting, is injurious to the welfare of the neighbourhood. I would point out that my Amendment in no sense diminishes the powers which landowners now have of charging their estates under the Act of 1870 and 1871, and if it were accepted the only change it would make in the existing law would be that they would not be able to charge their estates for a longer period than twenty-five years, or to charge more than one of their estates, supposing they had several, in order to build a mansion-house. It is very singular that during the period of agricultural depression—namely, between the years 1879 and 1894—the expenditure on mansion-houses was considerably larger than the expenditure upon cottages, £430,000 being charged on estates for mansion-houses in that period, and £377,000 only for providing labourers' cottages. And during the five years of acute depression, between 1889 and 1894, the amount of money expended and charged upon estates for mansion-houses was nearly £170,000, whereas the amount charged for the provision of cottages for the labouring population was only £67,000, or hardly more than one-third, while the expenditure on drainage, which was urgently needed in some parts of the country, amounted to only £12,000. Thus, during the worst period of agricultural depression, we find the landlords spending more money on mansion-houses and less on urgently required improvements on their estates. These figures

show the ground for the limitation I propose. I would ask the Committee once more to remember that what I suggest is not a diminution of the existing powers of landlords in charging their estates for a reasonable provision of mansion-houses, and for the enlargement of their houses for their own pleasure and comfort, but that the special facilities under this Act should not be extended to mansion-houses, and that they should not charge more than one of their estates for this purpose. I would ask, also, whether the building and enlargement of a landowner's house can possibly be such an improvement as the equipment of farms with the most modern arrangements, and it is only by these means that we can succeed against foreign competition, or the provision of small holdings and comfortable cottages for the working population, which are, after all, the backbone of the agricultural community, so that these estates may be worked not only for the happiness of the people but for the ultimate welfare of the landlord himself.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 8, to leave out the words 'an improvement of land,' and insert the words 'any of the improvements mentioned in section 9 of the principal Act, or in section 25 of the Settled Land Act, 1882'—(*Mr. Channing*)—instead thereof."

Question proposed, "That the words 'an improvement of land' stand part of the clause."

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (*Mr. LONG, Liverpool, West Derby*): I hope the Committee will not accept the amendment of the hon. Gentleman. I will not go into a full discussion of the history of the improvement of land, but I would point out to the Committee that the hon. Member has ignored the conditions under which money can be borrowed for the rebuilding and improvement of residences, and the general improvement of the estate. They are not borrowed under similar conditions. For the rebuilding or improvement of residences the owner is limited to two years' net value of the income. But there is a still more important limitation, that in cases of loans incurred for the improvement of estates they take priority of all existing mortgages and loans. In the absence of a residence, or where the residence is in bad order, it is clearly desirable that it should be provided or restored. If the Amendment is carried, instead of having more money to spend upon the general development of the estate the owner will have less. It would limit the powers of the owners, and prevent them from putting their residences into such a condition as would be of advantage to the estate and to the locality.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 100 ; Noes, 21. (Division List, No. 315.)

AYES.

Arnold, Alfred
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Barnes, Frederick Gorell
Barton, Dunbar Plunkett
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lanes.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worcester)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Curzon, Viscount

Dalkeith, Earl of
Denny, Colonel
Doughy, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
Fellowes, on. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manchester)
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert B.
Fisher, William Hayes
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Fry, Lewis
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine

Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdonald, John Cumming
Maclure, Sir John William
McKillop, James
Manners, Lord Edward W. J.
Milward, Colonel Victor
More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Pierpoint, Robert
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Round, James
Roys, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Ryder, John Herbert Dudley

Seely, Charles Hilton
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, James P. (Lancs.)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Edw. J. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)

Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, W. E. Murray
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Williams, Jos. Powell (Birm.)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. S.-

Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Asher, Alexander
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Caldwell, James
 Doogan, P. C.
 Duckworth, James
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. C. Seale-
 Hazell, Walter
 Hedderwick, Thos. Chas. H.

Horniman, Frederick John
 Joicey, Sir James
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Crae, George
 Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr)
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh

Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarsh.)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Strachey, Edward
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Tennant, Harold John
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Channing and Mr.
 Courtenay Warner.

*MR. CHANNING: The next clause that I propose is a purely permissive clause. The Board of Agriculture has to consider each application with regard to a scheme of improvement upon its merits, and I seek in this clause to give them the power if the landlord's scheme of improvement is unsatisfactory, and if it is within the knowledge of the Board of Agriculture that adequate cottage accommodation on such an estate is not properly provided, to decline to entertain that scheme unless he can amend it in the sense that he would charge his property to a reasonable extent for the provision of cottage accommodation upon that estate. I think the reasons upon which such provision is based are reasons which any practical man would suppose would be in the mind of the Board of Agriculture in dealing with this question. The Board would be neglecting their duty if they did allow estates to be charged up to the hilt without making any provision for the removal of deficiencies with regard to cottage accommodation.

New Clause—

"The Board of Agriculture, before making an order on any application made to them under the principal Act or under this Act to sanction improvements, may by one of their officers hold an inquiry as to the provision of adequate and suitable cottages for the labouring population on the estate in respect of which the application is made, and if the officer holding such inquiry reports such provision to be defective, the Board may decline to make an order unless the landowner shall amend his application so as to include some improvement of the cottage accommodation on the estate."
 (Mr. Channing.)

brought up and read the first time.

Motion made and Question proposed,
 "That the clause be read a second time."

*MR. LONG: I hope the Committee will support me in resisting this new clause. The object of this Bill is to extend the powers of limited owners especially to improve their estates. When a limited owner goes to one of these companies to obtain a loan in order to drain his cottages or to provide a water supply, the Board of Agriculture is invited by the hon. Gentleman to say, "Before you expend this money upon this most desirable purpose which will confer permanent benefit upon your property, we will inquire whether or not cottages are required upon your estate. If cottages are required we will refuse to allow you to expend this money, necessary though it is, unless you are prepared to expend other money." I submit that that is a ridiculous proposal which would have precisely the opposite effect to that which the hon. Gentleman desires. What we want to do is to encourage as far as we legitimately can the expenditure of money in the development and improvement of estates, and I hope the Committee will reject this Amendment.

MR. STRACHEY (Somerset, S.): I hope the Committee will not shut their eyes to the fact that there are estates where the provision of cottages is very bad, and a landowner might be looking at the question and saying, "If I spend this money on drainage or on improvements I shall get a very good return for it." In many cases tenants are prepared to give a larger rent, or not to ask for a reduction of rent if these expenditures

are made. But it is a well-known fact that as regards cottage property there is no direct increase of rent, although of course there is an indirect advantage. In such cases this Amendment would be very desirable, and I should strongly support it.

MR. HAZELL (Leicester): I would ask the right hon. Gentleman to reconsider his decision with regard to this Amendment. There are many cases in which the cottages are very fair as far as they go, but there are not enough of them. The mere fact that the question of proper accommodation would be inquired into would induce an owner when he desired a loan to look round at the cottage accommodation, and probably include a moderate amount of increased accommodation in his scheme.

MR. SOAMES (Norfolk, S.): The great problem in the agricultural districts in East Anglia is to get a sufficient amount of agricultural labour in the villages, and no doubt the question of the cottages has something to do with it. Landowners who manage their estates well need have no fear whatever of this clause; but there are cases undoubtedly in which there is a tendency on the part of landowners to spend money on other objects rather than on cottages. I therefore desire to join in urging the right hon. Gentleman to consider this clause favourably.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 21; Noes, 96. (Division List, No. 316.)

Bill reported, without Amendment.

AYES.

Asher, Alexander
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Caldwell, James
Doogan, P. C.
Duckworth, James
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Hazell, Walter
Hedderwick, Thos. Charles H.

Horniman, Frederick John
Joicey, Sir James
Lawson, Sir W. (Cumbland)
Macaleese, Daniel
Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Provand, Arthur Dryburgh
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)

Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Tennant, Harold John
Tollemache, Henry James
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Channing and Mr.
Strachey.

NOES.

Arnold, Alfred
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Capt. R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir J. Charles Ready
Curzon, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of
Denny, Colonel
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir W. H.
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn E.

Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manch'r)
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robt. Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Foster, Colonel (Lancaster)
Fry, Lewis
Garfit, William
Gedge, Sydney
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. W.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning-Corn
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Loder, Gerald Walter Eiskine
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverp'l)
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maclure, Sir John William
McKillop, James
Milward, Colonel Victor
More, Rbt. Jasper (Shropsh.)
Morrell, George Herbert
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Pierpoint, Robert

Pryce Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. T.
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Seely, Charles Hilton
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith, J. Parker (Lanarks.)
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Edw. J. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, W. Edw. Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
Williams, Jos. Powell (Birm.)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir
William Walrond and Mr.
Anstruther.

*MR. LONG : I hope I may appeal to the House to take the Third Reading now.

MR. CHANNING : I do not propose to object to the Third Reading, but at the same time I wish to say with some emphasis that the absence of any limitations being imposed in this Bill will compel me to vote against it on its Third Reading.

Bill read the third time and passed.

PATRIOTIC FUND BILL.

SECOND READING.

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

MR. PARKER SMITH (Lanarkshire, Partick) : The Patriotic Fund, I think, has gone in too much of late years for accumulating funds. These funds, which were subscribed for a particular purpose, ought not to be saved, but expended upon the people for whom they were intended. It is a step in the right direction to extend the object of the fund from widows and orphans to other dependents, but there is another step which ought to be included in any extension, and that is making the fund applicable to the men themselves who served in these campaigns. If we are compelled to look beyond the original objects of the fund I think these men should be first to come in for consideration, and I would urge this view upon the Government.

MR. WYNDHAM : It would be quite impossible to amend the Bill in the direction suggested by the hon. Member. I can only say that the Bill as it stands embodies the unanimous wish of those who have worked upon the subject.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for Monday next.

RESERVE FORCES BILL.

Read a second time, and committed for Monday next.

PUBLIC WORKS (LOANS) BILL.

SECOND READING.

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made and Question proposed : "That the Bill be now read a second time."

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) : There is a sum of no less than £23,189 which is to be wiped off in respect of local loans given to the people of Ireland. The corresponding amount in Scotland is £137. Ten persons alone take £3,000, and a great many have got the whole of their sums wiped off. The only wonder is that anybody in Ireland thinks of repaying any loans at all. It is very unfair that while some people repay the money, other people get let off. I think some little explanation is required, and perhaps it will be given.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for Monday next.

METROPOLITAN POLICE BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

MR. CALDWELL : I have a number of Amendments on the Paper, but I quite recognise that at two o'clock in the morning it is no good moving such Amendments. I shall therefore content myself with simply protesting against the system of Departments keeping these Bills until this stage of the session. I may also say that although the Bill is passed this year, it must not be assumed that it will pass next year.

Bill reported, without Amendment ; to be read the third time upon Monday next.

COLONIAL LOANS FUND BILL.

Order for Committee read, and discharged ; Bill withdrawn.

BODIES CORPORATE (JOINT TENANCY) BILL [Lords].

Read a second time, and committed for Monday next.

In pursuance of the Order of the House of the 17th day of this instant July, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned accordingly at five minutes after Two of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 28th July 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

HUMBER CONSERVANCY BILL [H.L.]
Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to.

HARROW AND UXBRIDGE RAILWAY BILL.

Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE TRAMWAYS AND IMPROVEMENT BILL.

The Queen's Consent signified ; and Bill reported, with Amendments.

CHARING CROSS, EUSTON, AND HAMPSTEAD RAILWAY BILL.

The Queen's Consent signified ; and Bill reported, with Amendments.

BROMPTON AND PICCADILLY CIRCUS RAILWAY BILL.

Reported, with Amendments.

UXBRIDGE AND RICKMANSWORTH RAILWAY BILL.

Reported, with Amendments.

DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL.

Moved, that Standing Order No 143A be considered and dispensed with in respect of the said Bill ; agreed to ; Bill read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

DUBLIN CORPORATION (MARKETS) BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

BEXHILL AND ROTHERFIELD RAILWAY BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendment, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 2) BILL [H.L.]

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 3) BILL [H.L.]

ABERDEEN JOINT PASSENGER STATION BILL [H.L.]

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.

VOL. LXXV. [FOURTH SERIES.]

CALEDONIAN RAILWAY (GENERAL POWERS) BILL [H.L.]

LEIGH - ON - SEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL [H.L.]

YEADON AND GUISELEY GAS BILL [H.L.]

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY BILL [H.L.]

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments ; the said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

GREAT NORTHERN AND STRAND RAILWAY BILL.

GREAT WESTERN AND GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANIES BILL.

LONDON, BRIGHTON, AND SOUTH COAST RAILWAY (VARIOUS POWERS) BILL.

SOUTH - EASTERN AND LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAY COMPANIES (NEW LINES) BILL.

STOCKPORT CORPORATION WATER BILL.

WALKER AND WALLSEND UNION GAS (ELECTRIC LIGHTING) BILL.

Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to.

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 2) BILL [H.L.]

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 3) BILL [H.L.]

Commons Amendments to be considered on Monday next.

BURGH POLICE (SCOTLAND) PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order) ; Bill reported without Amendment ; Standing Committee negatived ; and Bill to be read 3^a on Monday next.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 20) BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order) ; the Amendments proposed by the Select Committee made ; Standing Committee negatived ; the Report of Amendments to be received on Monday next.

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RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ARMY (MILITARY PRISONS).

Report on the discipline and management of military prisons, 1898.

TURKEY (No. 2) 1899.

Report by Her Majesty's Commissioner in Crete on the Provisional British Administration in the province of Candia.

TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 2321. Belgium.

No. 2322. Borneo (Borneo and Sarawak).

COLONIES (ANNUAL).

No. 263. Falkirk Islands: Annual Report for the year 1898.

ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND.

Annual Report for the year 1898.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

Annual Report on the distribution of grants for agricultural education and research in the year 1898-99; with statements respecting the several colleges and institutions aided and the experiments conducted. Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

LUNACY.

Report to the Lord Chancellor of the number of visits made and the number of patients seen by the Commissioners in Lunacy during the six months ended 30th June, 1899. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

IMPROVEMENT OF LAND BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a on Monday next.—(The Lord Privy Seal [*V. Cross.*]). (No. 185.)

ROYAL NIGER COMPANY BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a on Monday next.—(*The Earl of Selborne.*) (No. 186.)

COMPANIES BILL [H.L.].

Amendments reported (according to Order), and Bill to be read 3^a on Monday next.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING (CLAUSES) BILL

SECOND READING.

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

THE EARL OF DUDLEY: My Lords, The object of this Bill is to simplify the arrangements under which Provisional Orders are granted by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, and also under which Confirming Bills are submitted to both Houses of Parliament. At the present time sixty or seventy Provisional Orders are granted every year by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, and in each of these Orders there are eighty or ninety clauses, many of which are absolutely identical in terms. That entails a considerable amount of expense to the promoters, and it also entails an enormous amount of labour to the printers, who have to reprint in each case clauses which are identical. We therefore propose by this Bill to consolidate all those clauses in one Bill, exactly in the same way as in the case of railways, tramways, gas, and other matters. We hope that this will not only have the advantage to which I have referred, but that it will also safeguard us from errors which may take place in the printing, and which are very difficult to detect in Bills containing so many clauses. Our proposal will not in any way stereotype the Bills, because the Board of Trade will have power in every case to vary them according to their discretion.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^a."
(*The Earl of Dudley.*)

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (*The Earl of MORLEY*): I am extremely glad, my Lords, that this Bill has been brought in. It will save a great deal of trouble and unnecessary labour; but I should like to call my noble friend's attention to one point. I am not going to move any Amendment, but I would suggest to my noble friend that, in dealing with Electric Lighting Orders which have not been put into operation, it would be an improvement, instead of saying that the Board of Trade should revoke such Orders, that they should lapse within a given time if nothing is done, unless the Board of Trade see fit to give an extension of time. At present local authorities

very often obtain Provisional Orders without any intention of really carrying them into effect, but merely to occupy the field and so prevent anyone else coming in. If my suggestion is adopted, it will bring the procedure in connection with Electric Lighting Bills into exactly the same form as railway and other private procedure Bills.

THE EARL OF DUDLEY : I can assure my noble friend that the point he has raised is one which the Board of Trade will take into serious consideration, and to which they will give every attention. We have already done something in the direction suggested by the noble Earl. Last November we communicated with all the electric lighting companies who had had Orders for three years and upwards, and who had not fulfilled their statutory requirements, and warned them that, if those requirements were not carried out immediately, we should put into force the powers of revocation which we possess. I believe the effect of that warning has been to bring those companies up to a much higher point of activity, and we propose to adopt the same course every year.

On Question, agreed to.

QUESTIONS.

TRANSVAAL AFFAIRS.

***THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN :** My Lords, I rise to call attention to the Papers relating to the affairs of the South African Republic. If, during the present session of Parliament, nothing has been said in this House with regard to the existing state of affairs in the Transvaal, I am sure it is not because there has been any want of anxious interest in the subject. Every thinking person in this country has watched the progress of events in the Transvaal with deep interest, and even with great anxiety, and if we in this House had consulted our own inclinations, I am confident that from more than one part of the House questions would have been addressed to the Government, and Debates would have arisen. But I believe there has been in every part of the House a general feeling that we should be consulting the true

interests of the country much better by maintaining silence until we were in possession of more accurate information, and until we were in a position to speak with no uncertain sound on these grave events. The reasons for silence now appear to me to have passed away in great measure, and in view of the early prorogation of Parliament, and the Debate on the Colonial Vote in another place, I think there is no longer any reason for the House to prolong the reticence which, up to the present time, it has observed. It is desirable, above all things, that the country should understand from Parliament, and from both Houses of Parliament, what are the opinions entertained with regard to this important matter, and it is perhaps even more important that the opinion of Parliament should be known throughout the whole of the world, and particularly in the South African Republic, the interests of which are more especially at stake. It is not necessary, in calling attention to this matter, that I should go further back than 1881, when Mr. Gladstone's Government restored to the Transvaal its independence, and when my noble friend who now leads the Opposition (the Earl of Kimberley) was Secretary of State for the Colonies. I am not going into the details of this matter, but I would remind your Lordships that when independence was restored to the South African Republic, it was with two conditions attached. One was that the suzerainty of this country should be preserved as the paramount power in South Africa ; and the other was that there should be equality of persons in the sight of the law in the country which was restored. I was one of those who supported the course which Her Majesty's Government then took. I appreciated their reason for so acting. I knew that there was very great and very grave differences of opinion on the subject, but it seemed to me that, in the first place, having committed, as I thought, the great mistake of annexing a Republic without the expression of its freewill—a Republic which, if we had only waited a few months or a few weeks longer, would have been begging for our protection, and begging to be saved from financial ruin—it was not expedient to retain the Transvaal as a dependent State. I thought that this country was big enough not to make it necessary that the overwhelming

force of this country should destroy a small force of Boers simply to show that we had the power to do so. There was another and still stronger reason—a reason to which I still attach great importance. We appreciated the feelings of the Dutch people, not only in the Transvaal and in the Orange Free State, but in the Cape Colony and throughout the whole of South Africa. We felt that if we had employed force against the Transvaal, and had insisted on retaining it in its dependence, a most painful feeling would have arisen throughout the whole of South Africa, which would have lasted for a number of years, the duration of which it was not possible to calculate. I hope, even at the present time, that this last reason has had some force. I believe the action of the Government of that time has been appreciated by the statesmen of the Orange Free State, and by the Dutchmen in the Cape Colony; and I am not altogether without some hope that some of the beneficent action, as I think, of Dutch statesmen may be owing to the fact that they know, and have realised by experience, that it is not the desire of this country to tyrannise over the Dutch Republics. So far, my Lords, as the South African Republic is concerned, I am sorry to be obliged to admit that Her Majesty's Government were wrong in their action. The principles upon which the Government then acted have been proved by experience to have been too noble and too elevated for human nature as it at present exists. I am afraid that the authorities of the South African Republic attributed the action of Her Majesty's Government to reasons very different from those which in reality actuated them, and I am afraid, looking back on the transaction as a whole, that we have had small encouragement indeed to repeat it if it were to fall to our lot to think of repeating it again. Ever since the Convention of 1881, and the subsequent Convention of 1884, the authorities of the South African Republic have been struggling to defeat both of the conditions which were imposed in those Conventions. They have struggled, and they are still struggling, to destroy the suzerainty of this country, and only the other day the President endeavoured to impress on Sir Alfred Milner the desirability, and even the necessity, of acceding to arbitration in regard to affairs between this country and the South African

Republic. On this point, it is very desirable that President Kruger should clearly understand that no Government could exist for any time in this country which could be persuaded to give up the position of Great Britain as the paramount Power in South Africa. In fact, at one time we were on the point of having a disagreement with a great and friendly European Power on the question. With regard to the other condition—that there should be equality of persons in the sight of the law—I am afraid that we must admit that in this matter also the course of action of the Government of the South African Republic has not been what we might, I think, have reasonably expected it to be. At the time these Conventions were made, the great gold discoveries had not taken place in the Republic, and the Uitlanders were by no means so important a factor as they have since become. When the gold discoveries were made, immigration began to assume large proportions, and the Government of the Republic, I think not unnaturally, became suspicious, and began to fear that the greater power in the Government might eventually be seized by the Uitlanders. If, in safeguarding the franchise, and in insisting upon other conditions in regard to civil and social matters, the Government had exercised something like moderation, I do not think that any fault would have been found with them in this country or elsewhere; but, unfortunately, they have given way to their fears, and have adopted a long course of restrictive legislation, the result of which is to be found in the Papers which have recently been presented to your Lordships' House. What are the present grievances of the Uitlanders? I will not weary your Lordships by reading Blue Books, but I will very shortly enumerate a few of them. The Uitlanders are practically excluded from the First Volksraad, the assembly which is omnipotent in that country. Public meetings in the streets are prohibited by law, and even when a public meeting was convened in a hall, with the consent of the Government, to consider the matters which we are to-day discussing, that meeting was broken up by Dutchmen who, if the papers speak correctly, were, many of them, in the employ of the Republic. With regard to the position of aliens, they can be expelled from the country by the Executive Authority simply at their

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free-will, so far as Uitlanders are concerned, though the law is different with regard to Dutchmen. If you turn to the law, there is no such thing as a Supreme Court, because the Judicial Assembly, which is called the Supreme Court, has now been obliged to swear that it will accept as law any resolution of the Volksraad. As to trial by jury, it is true that there is a jury, but the jurymen must all be Boers. With regard to the Press, newspapers can be suppressed, and frequently are suppressed, by the Executive Authority acting at its own freewill and discretion. If we consider the state of municipal life in that country, we find that in Johannesburg, the population of which consists of a little more than 1000 Boers, and between 23,000 and 24,000 Uitlanders, the Burgomaster is appointed by the Executive Authority, and half of the council must be Boers and must be elected by Boers. For the police, Boers alone are eligible, a state of things which cannot but occasion the gravest discontent. There is only one other matter to which I will allude—namely, the question of education. Although the Uitlanders are a large proportion of the population, and although they pay something approaching five-sixths of the taxes, the teaching of English is practically prohibited, except in some five or six schools which have been established after great pressure. These are some of the grievances of which the Uitlanders complain; and I think your Lordships will admit, and indeed everybody will admit, that the list is a most formidable one. I should like to ask whether any one can pretend that Great Britain has displayed any want of patience in her dealings with the South African Republic. The questions concerning the grievances of the Uitlanders which are now agitating that country have not been raised within the last few days or months—they have been going on for years; but so anxious has the Government of this country been to abstain from interference, that they have limited themselves to remonstrance where they might, with justice, have done more, and I believe they have abstained altogether from complaining in many instances where complaint ought to have been made. I doubt, my Lords, whether it would have been possible for the Government of this country to refrain so long from decided action, as they have done, were it not

for one most deplorable circumstance. The circumstance to which I allude, as your Lordships are aware, is that which is known as the Jameson raid. It seems to me that that raid is one of the most unfortunate events in our history. I really hardly know words in which I can describe it. To me it is a question which was the greater—the folly or the criminality—of that insane attempt. How could any sensible man conceive that Great Britain, which possesses more colonies and more foreign establishments than any other country in the world, could consent to derive any advantage from what can only be described as an act of filibustering? It is only fair to say that though we have suffered much from that unfortunate and ill-advised attempt, we should have suffered much more had it not been for the promptness and energy of the Colonial Secretary. If Mr. Chamberlain had paused for only a few hours in dissociating Her Majesty's Government from any responsibility for that affair, the expedition itself would have failed; and who would have believed that this country had not been ready to profit by it, and had not even been cognisant of it? Do you think that anything would have persuaded the Boers, and is it reasonable that anything could have persuaded them, that this country had not been privy to the raid, and that it dissociated itself from the transaction only because of its failure? I shall always think that Mr. Chamberlain deserves the gratitude of this country for the energy and the activity which he then displayed. He preserved our good faith and our good name, and if there was nothing else in his colonial administration which deserved praise, for his action in this matter, at any rate, the thanks of the country are certainly due to him. I must, however, at the same time say that we cannot justly ascribe the present state of affairs in the Transvaal to that ill-starred attempt, because new grievances have been added since, and continual refusals have been made to redress grievances which have been put forward by the Uitlanders in a fair, open, and constitutional manner. The result is that a petition has been presented to Parliament by the Uitlanders, and more especially by the South African League. It has been said that the South African League is composed of, or is acting in consort with, a number of capitalists, and that the allegations which are contained in

their petition are not really supported by public opinion in that country. It seems to me only fair that it should be known what is the real constitution of the South African League, and who the men are who mainly compose it. You will find in the Blue Book a report by Mr. Fraser, who in January of this year was Her Majesty's Acting-Agent at Pretoria. He points out that the leaders of the League are men of position and importance in Johannesburg, and that the president and members of the committee belong to the highly-educated class, and are most of them professional mining engineers, in the employment of the largest financial houses, receiving salaries varying from £600 to £2,000 a year. These statements show that the League is composed of the sort of men who would make, under proper treatment, most valuable citizens of the South African Republic. With regard to the negotiations which have been, and which still may be supposed to be in progress with President Kruger, I do not desire to say very much. I do not wish to enter into details, which are not matters for the consideration of individual Members of the House, but matters to be decided by Her Majesty's Government. It seems to me that the question of a municipal franchise is of much more importance to the Uitlanders than that of the political franchise, and if President Kruger could be induced to concede something like a moderate measure of municipal reform, he would do more to make his State contented and prosperous than by any other measure he could adopt. There has been, as your Lordships know, a meeting quite recently between the President and Sir Alfred Milner at Bloemfontein, and we know from the papers that the detailed plan which the President produced was beset with impossible conditions. Since that time, however, Dutch opinion has forced him to agree to considerable concessions, and I think we are all indebted to Mr. Hofmeyer and Mr. Schreiner for the laudable efforts they have made to induce President Kruger to adopt more reasonable views. We have to thank them in a large measure for whatever concessions have been obtained. They comprehend the situation well. They understand this country, and they understand the power and the will of this country, and it is to be hoped that they will continue their valuable efforts,

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and that President Kruger will advance much further in the direction of concessions than he has hitherto gone. It is, it seems to me, most important that President Kruger should understand that whatever concessions are made must be real concessions, and not concessions which are given with one hand and taken away with the other by means of impossible conditions. I hope that he will be given to understand further that those concessions must be irrevocable, and that there must be guarantees that they are conceded once and for all, and are not to be taken away by future legislation. Our experience shows clearly that anything we obtain from President Kruger will only be obtained by continual pressure, and by pressure behind which there is a material guarantee of force. It would be a great mistake, I think, for us to conceal from ourselves the fact that it is useless to look to moral pressure alone. I regret that some of the newspapers in this country appear to have for their policy—their sole policy—a desire to attack the present Secretary for the Colonies, and they seem to consider that when they have done that their mission is accomplished, and that the interests of this country are a secondary matter, to be dealt with only in a secondary way. I think, further, that it would be most unfortunate if any Party or any statesman in this country were to give effect to language which would encourage Mr. Kruger in the course which he has thus far pursued. No language of that sort is likely to be heard in your Lordships' House. I wish I were quite as certain with regard to other places. Personally, I enter my protest against the language used by the Leader of the Opposition in another place. Speaking at Ilford, on June 17, he said :

"There are some newspapers which talk freely of the probability, and even of the necessity, of war, and the public mind has been much disturbed in consequence. I think it right to say plainly that I, for my part, can discern nothing in what has occurred to justify any warlike action or even military preparation."

It appears to me that language of that sort is most likely to encourage very false views abroad. If we are to trust, as he says, to the pressure of peaceful negotiation, I am afraid it will have no effect if there is no force behind it to back it up if need be. Her Majesty's Government would, I think, have de-

served the gravest condemnation if, at a time like the present, they had not taken every measure which was necessary to strengthen our forces so as to prepare for any eventuality that may occur in South Africa, however unfortunate and however unlikely that eventuality might be. Above all things, it is to be desired that very clear and unmistakable language should be used in expressing the opinion of Her Majesty's Government. I am glad to think that up to the present time such has been the case. Firm and clear language is much more likely to avert than to cause war. We have a bitter experience to that effect, for was not the Crimean War caused by the fact that statesmen could not make up their minds, and did not use clear language? And if your Lordships wish for an instance of the contrary effect, you need only look back to last year, when, as we know, it was only because Her Majesty's Government knew their own minds and had determined that the valley of the Nile was Egypt and Egypt was the valley of the Nile, that at the present moment we are not at conflict with a friendly and neighbouring State. That clear language is necessary I believe to be beyond all dispute. Those who know Sir Alfred Milner know well that he is not a man who is addicted to violent language or deeds of violence, and that if he speaks clearly it is because, in the interests of the country and of peace, it is necessary to speak clearly. President Kruger must be made clearly to understand that his Government—the Government of the South African Republic—must be a tolerable Government, and one in which a man can enjoy some degree of liberty, some degree of justice, and some degree of representation, that if he perseveres in his present course he will in the end tire out the great and long-suffering patience of this country, and that, if a war ensues, he, and he alone, will be solely responsible for it. I hope, my Lords, that if by any misfortune it should at a later period become necessary to have recourse to action, it will be clearly understood that the war will be one in which the whole power of the British Empire will be engaged. I hope it will be clearly understood that it will not be a war to consist merely of one battle, and after that everything will go on as before. In a grave matter of this kind it cannot be too clearly explained what the results of a

war must be; and I firmly believe a war of this kind would either put an end to the prestige of the British Empire, or it would put an end to the independence of the Transvaal State. These words are plain and simple, and may be looked upon as strong speaking; but they are not intended as words of menace. I do not speak in a sense at all unfriendly to the South African Republic. Her Majesty's Government have no designs whatever against the independence or the liberty of the South African Republic. If they had at any time entertained such designs, ample opportunities have been given to them which they might have used. Hitherto they have been most patient, and they are continuing to be patient; but unless there is a change in the system of government in the Republic and in their policy, the Republic itself cannot be prosperous, and it may even ultimately cease to be independent. I rely largely upon the wisdom of the Dutch statesmen of whom I have spoken. They know well what are the relations between their country and Great Britain. The President of the Orange Free State knows well that if the laws in that State were such as they are in the South African Republic at the present time, confusion and anarchy would ensue. Mr. Schreiner, the Prime Minister of the Cape Colony, knows well what the result would be if the British minority in the Cape Colony were, by the aid of the Imperial Government, to force on the Dutch majority in the Cape laws similar to those which now prevail in the Transvaal. I hope and believe that those statesmen will give wise advice to President Kruger, and that he himself will be wise in time. If the administration of the South African Republic is not altered, what can be expected except a course of constant agitation and even insurrection, which will be judged throughout the civilised world as being justified by the circumstances which have led to it? Do they expect that this Government can stand by and receive all these petitions and make no response to them? How can we ignore those petitions when the understanding upon which we assented to the giving up of the Transvaal was that our fellow-countrymen should be treated with justice and liberality? It appears to me to be the plain duty of Her Majesty's Government to prepare for any eventuality which can by any possibility arise, and, above all, never to desist

from urging and putting forward the just and reasonable claims of the Uitlanders who at the present time live in the South African Republic.

*THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN: My Lords, I am sure your Lordships will be glad that this matter has been brought before the House. It would have been scarcely fitting if, before Parliament adjourns, this House had no opportunity of expressing an opinion on a matter of such vast importance to a vast proportion of Her Majesty's subjects, and which deeply affects the supremacy and Imperial position of this country in South Africa. In considering the disabilities and difficulties under which the Uitlander population labour in the Transvaal, it is important to remember that they are suffering from injustices which have grown up during the last few years; they are not in the position of British subjects who have chosen to dwell in a foreign State in which they were aware that they would be deprived practically of all civil rights and religious liberties. The Uitlanders live in a State whose existence as an independent State was granted on, as a primary condition, the possession by its inhabitants of equal rights before the law. Your Lordships will remember that in the protocols of the Convention, in the minutes of the conference between Sir Evelyn Wood and President Kruger the latter stated, among other things, that "everyone would enjoy equal protection," and that there would be no difference made "between anyone in respect of burghers' rights." It must also be borne in mind that the present helpless position of the Uitlander population is due to our own action, for, after the deplorable episode of the raid, at our instance, and on our promise of redress, they laid down their arms. We deprived them of the primary right of individuals and communities, an appeal to physical force as a last resort. The Transvaal Government has deprived them of access to independent Courts and denies

them any share in legislative power. They are unable to seek redress either by process of law or by process of legislation or by process of force. I do not think it is necessary to state at any length the long list of grievances under which the Uitlanders suffer. The Uitlanders are three-fourths of the population, they pay practically the whole of the taxation, and yet they have absolutely no representation, and no voice whatever in the fiscal and commercial policy of the country. That three-fourths of a population paying practically the whole taxation of the State should have no representation is utterly repugnant to our political views, and especially, I should imagine, to the views of members of the Liberal Party; it is repugnant to all of us, except, perhaps, to one or two strange survivals who hold that an oligarchy, even the most corrupt oligarchy, is a form of government ideally perfect. Such a condition of things is incompatible with social stability, is certain to create constant and ever-increasing friction; it is a condition which cannot permanently endure, and is provocative of grave danger while it lasts. Practically speaking, the Uitlander population are deprived of all civil rights; their position is almost inconceivable to the people of this country. The nearest analogy here would be found in a condition of things in which a House of Commons elected by a quarter of the population, bitterly hostile to the remaining three-fourths, had power to overrule, alter, and reverse the decisions of the Courts of Law in any civil or criminal case—a condition of things so abnormal, so preposterous, that its real character is disguised by its very enormities from the people. In most civilised countries the police may be relied upon to act, on the whole, with justness and fairness, but the Papers presented to Parliament teem with instances of arbitrary action and brutal interference with British subjects on the part of the police. But it is unnecessary to recapitulate the Uitlander grievances. The

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High Commissioner was fully justified in saying that they were "genuine and deep-seated." The right of public meeting is denied them ; the Press is gagged ; their children cannot be educated ; the English language—the language of the majority of the inhabitants—is forbidden in Courts of law ; decisions of the Courts can be set aside by a mere resolution of the Raad ; disabilities attach to religion. It is plain from the published Papers that the majority of the inhabitants of the Transvaal are placed in a position repugnant to the commonest conception of political and social liberty in civilised States. With good reason the High Commissioner said that whilst these grievances remain unredressed "there can be no tranquillity in Her Majesty's South African dominions" ; their continuance "steadily undermines the influence and reputation of Great Britain," and that "the case for intervention is overwhelming." I think we are bound to consider not only the disabilities under which the white population in the Transvaal labour, but also the condition of the coloured natives, many of whom are subjects of the Queen. They are treated with less consideration than should be accorded to brute beasts. They are bullied, ill-treated, subjected to violence at the hands of the police without possibility of justice or redress ; and worse than all are subjected to the body and soul destroying influence of the accursed illicit trade in liquor. There are about 120,000 natives employed in the mining industry. Some 30 per cent. of the native labour is incapacitated—so the Papers presented to Parliament state—from the horrible effects of an abominable illicit liquor trade, connived at and encouraged by the Executive. Thirty per cent. of 120,000 men incapacitated ! Conceive the amount of human misery and degradation involved in that shocking statement. Is it right, is it possible, for the British people, who have lavished blood and treasure in suppressing the slave trade, and have striven, not always with success, but on the whole honestly and suc-

cessfully to mitigate the destructive effects of the vices of civilisation on native races, to sit idly by and see so disgraceful a state of things in a country over which our Queen is suzerain ? There is another class of grievances to which I must also allude—namely, the commercial grievances. They are not so important, though undoubtedly they constitute distinct breaches of the Convention. But I have noticed frequently in the Press, and in some public speeches, that an attempt is made to show that matters like the dynamite and railway monopolies are grievances only of a few enormously rich men, who desire, if possible, to become richer. That is not the case. To use the High Commissioner's words, it is "a wilful perversion of the truth." The most patent of this class of grievance is the dynamite monopoly. The monopoly was granted for the manufacture of dynamite out of materials in the Transvaal, ostensibly in order to develop the country and for the benefit of the State. The State does not benefit. It is not one penny the richer, and not one ounce of dynamite has been manufactured out of materials in the country for the simple reason that there are no materials in the Transvaal out of which to make dynamite. The materials are imported manufactured, and so badly manufactured as to cause great and unnecessary loss of life. The explosives are sold at an exorbitant price. The price is not prohibitive, for dynamite is of course a necessity for the mining industry ; but it is so high as to most seriously cramp an industry upon which the future growth and prosperity of South Africa largely depends. And this monopoly is kept up solely that the South African Explosives Company and their friends may make enormous profits. So injurious was the effect of this monopoly that the persons interested in the mining industry proposed to President Kruger to advance the money to buy out the monopolists, and undertook to pay a duty of £1 a case on dynamite imported. That would have brought in

a revenue to the State of between £300,000 and £400,000 a year at present, and with the certainty of a large prospective increase, whereas, now, the Transvaal does not receive a farthing from the dynamite monopoly. This is not a matter of conjecture; this and other grievances are set forth in the very interesting Report of a Commission appointed by President Kruger to examine into the economic condition of the mining industry. The proof of these industrial grievances rests upon purely Boer evidence. As regards the Liquor Laws, the Commission stated that "the mining industry had a real grievance owing to the illicit sale of strong drink to the natives at the mines;" and as to explosives, the Commission reported that "the price paid by the miners for explosives was unreasonably high." It is an entire mistake to suppose that the objection to the dynamite monopoly is the objection of a few millionaires engaged in the mining industry. The objection is that it hampers to an enormous extent a great industry upon which not only the wealth of the Transvaal but the future prosperity and growth of the whole of South Africa must to a very large extent depend. This monopoly is kept up, not for the benefit of the State, not for the benefit of the country, but solely for the reason set out in the Report of President Kruger's Commission—namely, for the enrichment of a small gang of monopolists. That Commission reported that—

"The excess charge does not benefit the State, but serves to enrich individuals; the injustice of such a tax on the staple industry becomes more apparent, and demands immediate removal." "The monopoly now in the hands of the South African Explosives Company, whereby they make enormous profits at the expense of the mining industry."

The mining industry has thus to bear a burden which does not enrich the State

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or bring any benefit in return, and this fact

"must always prove a source of irritation and annoyance to those who, while willing to contribute to just taxation for the general good, cannot acquiesce in an impost of the nature complained of."

The Commission goes on to report that—

"The Transit Duties are unfair, and ought to be abolished," and "that, if possible, food stuffs ought to be entirely free from taxation."

Such is the condition of affairs. The main industry of the country is crippled. The natives are destroyed by the illicit liquor trade; the Uitlanders are denied civil and religious liberty, are subjected to insults, disabilities and injustice of all kinds, and are not allowed the alternative of representation in the State of their adoption. What has been done in the way of remedy? Probably the simplest, the most efficacious, and best remedy would be the concession to the district inhabited by the Uitlander population of liberty to manage their own internal and purely local affairs for themselves, subject, of course, to such taxation as the State required. Unfortunately, however, that method did not at all commend itself to the President at the Bloemfontein Conference, for he utterly declined to consider it. There remained the question of the franchise, and I am sure this House will agree that in concentrating his attention on that point the High Commissioner acted with entire wisdom. Such a representation as is asked for is not intended to be used to swamp the Boer element, but to enable the Uitlanders, with the help of the more intelligent section of the Boers, to gradually ameliorate their condition and relieve themselves from an intolerable state of things. I should like to know, if it is in the power of Her Majesty's Government to give the

information, what is the practical difference, as regards representation, between the scheme of the High Commissioner, laid down as the irreducible minimum, and the law which has been passed through the Raad, notwithstanding the request of the Colonial Secretary and the Prime Minister of the Cape for some delay. Nobody wants to naggle about a few months or a year or two, more or less, but the difficulties of the case are exceedingly complicated. It is impossible for me, or any private Member, to know what the real difference, not the theoretical, but the practical difference between the two schemes is, and if any information can be given on that point I, for one, shall be extremely grateful, for it is important that the people of this country should understand what is the real practical difference between the proposal made by the High Commissioner and the law which has been lately passed through the Raad. No one wishes that the independence of the Transvaal should be interfered with, if it can possibly be avoided, but we have certain rights and certain duties under the Convention—rights which have undoubtedly been broken, and duties which we have not yet fulfilled. It is impossible for the people of this country to for ever endure the sight of their white fellow-countrymen being treated with every kind of indignity as a subject and inferior race. They cannot and will not permit natives to be destroyed wholesale for the sake of a nefarious and illicit trade in the vilest liquor; and of one thing I am certain, that the people of this country will never for one moment allow any interference with the Imperial position of this country as the paramount Power in South Africa. If there was the slightest indication of foreign

interference, the country would jump to its feet as one man; it is not going to permit its power to be gradually undermined, and the confidence and affection of the loyal population to be alienated. The patience of the people is almost exhausted, and a settlement by one means or another will have to be arrived at speedily. You must accommodate your arguments to the nature of the people you are dealing with. There are individuals to whom you can say, "We have no reason to resort to force: we trust to your sense of justice and equity." We have already tried that in regard to the South African Republic without success. We must remember that the people of the Transvaal and the President are afflicted by two delusions. The people are of opinion that this nation is a pusillanimous nation, and that under no circumstances will it fight. The President is under a different but equally pernicious delusion that the country is divided on the point, and not prepared to insist upon a settlement. A dangerous delusion, for I am very sure the people of this country have made up their minds that the matter must be settled, and settled once and for all; and there is abundant evidence that the whole Empire is in earnest. I hope, as we all hope, for a peaceful solution, but if that is to be achieved we must remove the delusions under which the Boers labour with regard to this country. Whatever steps are necessary to force upon President Kruger's mind the conviction that we are in earnest, and that by diplomatic argument if possible, but if not, then by argument of a more cogent nature we are determined to secure, without much further delay, a satisfactory settlement—those steps will be steps in the way of peace.

*LORD WINDSOR: My Lords, I promise your Lordships that I shall not

occupy much time in making a few general remarks in this Debate. This is a question upon which I feel very deeply. I am desirous, as a humble supporter of Her Majesty's Government, to give the Government that support which I venture to think they deserve from those sitting on the back benches. It is difficult, feeling strongly upon this subject, to avoid using words and phrases which are construed into meanings very different from what one intends. If one talks about firmness, in some quarters it is called bluster; and if one asks for a clear statement of policy, one is told that one is crying out for war. At the outset, I repudiate this misinterpretation of language. I thoroughly agree with the noble Earl who opened the Debate that it is only when we act firmly, and put our foot down, that the South African Republic have given way. I do not desire to go one step further than I feel warranted in going by the language of the High Commissioner in his telegram of the 4th of May, and in the Despatches which have just recently been laid on your Lordships' table, which to my mind show that he is absolutely and fully aware of the difficulties of the case, and is equally determined to lay before the President, in a concise form and in temperate language, the views of Her Majesty's Government, and their just demands for an alteration in the state of affairs as regards the Uitlanders in the South African Republic. The opinion and attitude of the High Commissioner have been clearly set forth in his Despatches, but now something more is necessary. It is indispensable that not only should Sir Alfred Milner be satisfied that he has the full confidence of Her Majesty's Government, but that the country should know that the High Commissioner's policy has their support. If any doubt existed on that point, I feel certain that it has been swept away by

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the speech of the Colonial Secretary at Birmingham, and that of the First Lord of the Treasury yesterday. It is on those grounds, and because I am confident that this is the policy of Her Majesty's Government, that I venture to say a few words to give them my unqualified and strenuous support. The telegram of the High Commissioner of the 4th of May has been called unfortunate in its language, and the publication of it by the Colonial Secretary has been described as ill-timed; but I cannot imagine anything better calculated to brush away the cobwebs of misconception and misunderstanding than the temperate, the firm, and the concise language of that telegraphic Despatch. The grievances of the Uitlanders, which have been referred to, are generally admitted; I believe in this House no one would for a moment dispute the fact of their existence. I certainly shall not trouble your Lordships with any reference to them, but it has been asked by certain persons who sit in comfortable arm-chairs in this country, "What really do these Uitlanders complain of? They are making plenty of money, and their condition, after all, is not so very bad. They ought to be satisfied, and not bother us with their grievances." It appears to me to be forming a very poor estimate of human nature to imagine that making money is a consolation, or a sufficient compensation, for suffering under intolerable political grievances. This is not the view, I am glad to say, which the Uitlanders in the Transvaal themselves take. They are determined not to rest till they have done their utmost to remove the grievances under which they are living, and to restore to the population, which is mainly a population of Her Majesty's subjects, those rights which they receive in every other part of the South African

Colonies, and the Orange Free State. But, my Lords, the larger question which underlies the grievances of the Uitlanders, and the relations of this country and the South African Republic, is that of the paramountcy or the suzerainty of Great Britain in South Africa. Call it by what name you will, it means that we have made a claim before the world, that we have accepted responsibilities which cannot now be evaded, and we must bear in mind that in maintaining that claim and those responsibilities we are being keenly and closely watched by the eyes of all our Colonies and of the native population of South Africa. I will not detain the House further. I only wish to say that it is because I believe Her Majesty's Government are fully alive to the great Imperial interests which this question involves; it is because I believe that they have determined not to recede in the slightest degree from the position which they have now publicly taken up; it is because I believe that any departure from this firm policy would be of the greatest danger to this country, not only as regards its position in South Africa, but that it would actually shake to the foundation the very Imperial existence of Great Britain—it is for these reasons that I have ventured to address your Lordships, and to give my most hearty and strenuous support to the Government in dealing firmly with this most difficult problem.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (The Earl of SELBORNE): My Lords, Her Majesty's Government have no complaint to make of the noble Lords who have brought forward this question. On the contrary, I think it would have been curious if Parliament had adjourned without any men-

tion in either House of a subject of such widespread interest. The relations between Her Majesty and the dwellers across the Vaal River have always been regulated by instruments known as Conventions—there have never been between Her Majesty and those dwellers any Treaties of the form common between equal States or equal sovereign powers. Of these Conventions there are three principal ones, which I may describe as the important landmarks in the course of the relations between the two countries. First, there was the Sand River Convention of 1852, which Lord Derby stated, in his letter to the Transvaal deputation of November 20th, 1883, was, like the Convention of Pretoria, not a Treaty between two contracting Powers, but was a declaration made by the Queen, and accepted by certain persons, at that time her subjects, of the conditions under which, and the extent to which, Her Majesty could permit them to manage their own affairs without interference. It did not create a South African Republic with a political organisation and defined boundaries. The Sand River Convention of 1852 was superseded by the annexation of the Transvaal. Annexation in its turn was superseded by the Convention of Pretoria in 1881, and the form of the Convention, as your Lordships know well, was that of a grant from Her Majesty to the inhabitants of the Transvaal. The articles of that Convention in turn were superseded by the articles of the Convention of London of 1884, in which the same form was followed. I do not propose to discuss to-night the question of the reddition of the Transvaal in 1881. I do not think I shall be corrected by anyone in this House when I say that the object which those responsible for that reddition had in view was a noble object. They hoped by the admission of an unintentional injustice to win the affections of the Dutch in South Africa. How far, my Lords, has the result been achieved? I do not think, again, that I shall be liable to correction when I say that on no single occasion since the Convention of Pretoria could the relations of Her Majesty's Government and the Government of the Transvaal be properly

described by the word satisfactory. On the contrary, those relations have been strained over and over again, almost to the verge of war. And how is it that the object aimed at has so signally failed in its effect? I think that to find the proper answer we must consider the difference in the point of view between the Boers and ourselves. They do not regard the reddition in the same light in which we regard it, nor have they ever admitted that the relations established in 1881 and 1884 between this country and themselves are of the nature which we regard them to be. Our opinion as to the nature of those relations is drawn from the statements of the men who were responsible for those two Conventions. In 1881 the noble Earl, the present Leader of the Opposition in this House, writing to Sir Hercules Robinson, giving him instructions with regard to the Royal Commission which was to consider and advise upon the final agreements for the settlement of the affairs in the Transvaal, stated that

“Entire freedom of action will be accorded to the Transvaal Government so far as is not inconsistent with the rights expressly reserved to the Suzerain Power. The term suzerainty has been chosen as most conveniently describing superiority over a State possessing independent rights of Government subject to reservations with reference to certain specified matters.”

And in 1884 the late Lord Derby, then Secretary of State for the Colonies, made use of the following words in this House on March 17 :—

“Then the noble Earl (Earl Cadogan) said that the object of the Convention had been to abolish the suzerainty of the British Crown. The word ‘suzerainty’ is a very vague word, and I do not think it is capable of any precise legal definition. Whatever we may understand by it, I think it is not very easy to define. But I apprehend, whether you call it a protectorate, or a suzerainty, or the recognition of England as a paramount Power, the fact is that a certain controlling power is retained when the State which exercises the suzerainty has a right to veto any negotiations into which the dependent State may enter with Foreign Powers. Whatever suzerainty meant in the Convention of Pretoria, the condition of things which it implied still remains; although the word is not actually employed we have kept the substance. We have abstained from using the word because it was not capable of legal definition, and because it seemed to be a word which was likely to lead to misconception and misunderstanding.”

Our conception of our mutual relations is based on those two statements. How

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far removed from our conception is that of the Government of the South African Republic your Lordships can imagine when I tell the House that in a recent despatch they have, in describing themselves, used the words “A Sovereign International State.” With regard to the articles of the Convention of 1884, there has never apparently been a general similarity of interpretation on our part and on their part. At the present moment we have on record protests by this country against various infringements of the Convention by the South African Republic, and these serious differences between the two countries are only the successors of the differences of past years. I do not think it will be out of place to remind your Lordships what the late Lord Rosmead, then Sir Hercules Robinson, said on the subject in 1883. So long ago as the 23rd of November, 1883, Sir Hercules Robinson made the following observations as to the spirit in which the Boers were prepared to observe their engagements under the Convention of Pretoria :—

“The Transvaal burghers obviously do not intend to observe any conditions in it distasteful to themselves which Her Majesty’s Government are not prepared to insist on, if necessary by the employment of force. Her Majesty’s Government, I understand, do not feel justified in proceeding to this extremity, and no provision, therefore, of the Convention which is not agreeable to the Transvaal will be carried out, whilst what is agreeable will be observed without reference to the Convention.”

And, on the top of a state of affairs so difficult and so inharmonious as this, comes the treatment of the Uitlander population in the Transvaal. It is often said, in an airy way, “What is this Uitlander population? They are millionaires who want to make money, or they are German Jews.” I am not aware that even millionaires or German Jews have not the right to just treatment. But while there may be a score of millionaires and a few hundred German Jews, the Uitlander population consists of thousands of merchants, traders, professional men, artisans, and labourers—all the elements, in fact, that form the industrial community in any industrial centre in this country. And why are they in the Transvaal? They are there for the sole and only reason why an industrial community is to be found anywhere—because they sought employment, and because

that was the place where employment sought them. I would ask you particularly to remember that they have an absolute right to be there—a right which Her Majesty's Government reserved for them most expressly in the Convention of 1881. Not only have they a right to be there, but they have been welcomed there, and no wonder, for what have they not done for the country? They have made the country. They found it poor, and they made it rich. They found it weak, and they made it strong. They found it insignificant, and they made it of almost world-wide importance. Most of that community come from the United Kingdom. They find themselves living in the Transvaal under a code of laws and under an administration which hampers them at every turn, and the object of which apparently is to render the cost of production as high as possible, and which leaves every requirement of their domestic life unsatisfied, whether it is in respect of police protection, sanitation, or the education of their children, and at the same time imposes on them taxation on a higher scale and to a greater amount—to use the words of an eminent Frenchman, the President of the Chamber of Mines—“than in any other civilised country.” If you can picture the feelings of a man coming from the United Kingdom, try and enter into the feelings of the man coming from Cape Colony or from Natal—a man who is himself an Afrikaner, and who is very likely tied to many families in the Transvaal by blood relationship. He has seen Dutchman after Dutchman come from the Transvaal and settle down near him in the Cape Colony. Whenever they have come they are allowed to enjoy equal privileges, equal rights, and equal liberties. The Dutchman in Cape Colony could say, think, speak, write as he liked; and if he wished to become a naturalised British subject everything was made easy for him. When this Afrikaner of English extraction is led, in his turn, to go to the Transvaal, what does he find? He finds that under no circumstances can he become naturalised. Of course, I am speaking of the law as it was two months ago. If he wants to ventilate his grievances or his views in the Press, he is liable, as a journalist, to ruin by the suppression of his paper at the mere *ipse dixit* of the Executive Government. If he wishes to go to a public meeting and speak

his mind, he cannot do so without permission; and, generally, if he has a stake in the country, there is hanging over him the risk that at the whim of the Executive, and without any appeal to a court of law, he may be expelled from the country. The courts of justice are practically closed to him in any question between himself and the Executive, because the courts are completely subservient to the Executive. He cannot even tell the laws under which he is living, for so complete is the instability of the Constitution of the Republic, and its code of laws, that a single resolution of a single Chamber of the Volksraad, passed in one afternoon, can override a law of years' standing. The result, therefore, is that this is a question of the first magnitude. It is a question which is rending South Africa from end to end, which is paralysing business, and which is separating those who ought to be bound by the greatest ties of affection and confidence. What is really at stake? This question is not only of immense importance to South Africa, but it has been watched in every capital in the civilised world, and echoes of the question come back to us from all our colonies and the confines of the Empire. The question really is, whether British influence in South Africa is really, in fact, predominant, and not only so in theory. No other influence can secure a remedy for a division of sentiment so disastrous to South Africa. If it was unable to secure this remedy it would forfeit its right to claim predominance; if it were able to do so, but neglected to do so, it would fail in its duty. What is our title to interfere? We have, as has been stated in the Despatches, that general right which is inalienable in a civilised State to protect its subjects when it thinks they are hardly treated; and the Conventions, instead of being, as some misguided people seem to think, a bar to, and a diminution of, our general rights and position, are only an emphasis and an addition to them. I claim that the whole spirit of the Convention is one not only of internal autonomy, but of equality between man and man, and that that was in the minds of the framers of the Convention is certain when the history of the case is considered. The Convention was not sprung upon them in a moment; it was the result of long deliberations and consultations between representatives of

Her Majesty and chosen delegates of the Boers, and in these *pourparlers*, which are embodied in the Blue Books, will be found most categorical promises and assurances from President Kruger that in the Transvaal, to which internal independence was restored, there should be equality of treatment between white and white, between Englishmen and Dutchmen. Those assurances have not been kept. Every one of the laws which have caused the grievances of the Uitlander, every diminution of his individual liberty, and every restriction on his opportunities have been passed since the Conventions of 1881 and 1884, and in contravention of the assurances of President Kruger. In 1896 this withdrawal from the Uitlander of the privileges to which he had a right to consider himself entitled led him, as has already been stated in to-night's debate, to an armed rebellion. It was on the request of the late Lord Rosmead, Her Majesty's High Commissioner, that the men in arms laid down their weapons, and he only made that request to them to do so when President Kruger had made a promise that he would take into his best consideration, at an early date, the removal of their grievances. Therefore, I say our title to interfere is as strong as it can possibly be. It is said, "That may be, but we have been put out of court by the raid." The raid has been properly characterised by previous speakers. The only effect of the raid, so far as this question is concerned, has been, as Sir Alfred Milner has so admirably pointed out, to give the present condition of affairs a longer lease of life, and to give President Kruger longer time in which to grant redress on his own voluntary action. If you asked me to explain why it should be necessary so to misgovern the Uitlander population, I should be quite unable to furnish a satisfactory answer. It is obviously totally contrary to the true interests of the South African Republic. The only theory I can suggest is that those who are responsible for the government of the Republic do not appreciate, and have never had the opportunity to learn, what are the requirements of a modern industrial free community, and, for some reason which I cannot explain, they have not manifested any great desire to learn. President Kruger has always met the demand for a remedy for these grievances by saying it would sap the independence of his State, and he is saying the same

thing in regard to the dynamite monopoly. I should be very sorry to think that the internal autonomy of the Republic rested on no better basis than the misgovernment of the Uitlanders and the dynamite monopoly. I know it is firmly fixed in the Boer mind that it is the one eternal object of every party in the State in England to undo what was done in 1881, and nothing I can say on the subject can affect their opinion. But facts are facts, and I will defy anybody who considers this subject to point to a word, written or spoken, by any responsible Minister on either side since 1881 which showed a desire to take away the autonomy which was granted in that year. Once that question of independence is set at rest, what is there inconsistent with the Dutch ideal of a pastoral life in governing reasonably and well a great industrial community? The municipal government of Capetown, of Durban, and of Pietermaritzburg is most admirable, and does not prevent the Boer in those colonies from enjoying his peculiar ideas of life in the far Veldt. What would there be to disturb him, or to change his habits of life, if good government was substituted for bad in Johannesburg and the gold fields? The right for which the Boers are contending is not the right to preserve their own habits in domestic life, but the right to misgovern the Uitlanders at Johannesburg. We have lately, my Lords, been through what has been called a crisis. That crisis, which came upon us with extraordinary rapidity, undoubtedly had its origin in the murder of the late Mr. Edgar, and in the breaking up of the meeting of protest at Johannesburg, because then, for the first time, those who are British subjects in the Transvaal sent a petition to Her Majesty imploring her interference. When that petition came, the Government had only two choices—one was to pass it by and say it was no concern of theirs, and the other was to admit that it was their concern, and to accept the consequent responsibility. The latter course was the one which was taken, and I believe I am accurate in saying that that course received the unanimous approbation of the country. Almost immediately came the invitation to the Bloemfontein Conference. We have lived so rapidly in the last few weeks that I do not apologise for reminding your Lordships that the Bloemfontein Conference only commenced on the 31st

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of May last. Before that date, although this question had been a burning question for years, and although the noble Earl opposite, when Secretary of State for the Colonies, had, on behalf of the late Government, drawn President Kruger's attention most forcibly to the state of affairs, and put forth friendly suggestions for reform, not one step had been taken towards remedying the grievances, while much had been done towards making the position worse. Since the Bloemfontein Conference we have moved a long way. Successive proposals have been made to secure reforms, each of them, I am happy to say, an improvement on its predecessor. Although it is the misfortune of Her Majesty's Government by no means always to see eye to eye with their distinguished fellow-countrymen, Mr. Schreiner and Mr. Hofmeyr, or with Mr. Fischer, of the Orange Free State, yet I should be wrong if I did not acknowledge the assistance they have rendered in bringing the present proposals of the South African Republic to the point at which they are. I should be doing these eminent men an injustice if I did not suppose that they would have been willing to have done the same thing at any time within the last seven years. If you turn to the evidence of Mr. Schreiner before the South Africa Committee, you will see that there is very little difference of opinion as to the generally unfortunate situation between himself and Her Majesty's Government. Why is it, my Lords, that these gentlemen, in their patriotic endeavours, have been able to exercise effective influence now, whereas previously they have thought it useless to attempt to intervene? It is because of the new elements in the situation—the action of the High Commissioner, backed up by the public opinion of all the British in South Africa, and a large section of the Dutch, and by the attitude and intervention of Her Majesty's Government. I was able to say the other night that we hoped the last proposals put forward would form a basis of settlement. It is very unfortunate that President Kruger declined to take Her Majesty's Government into his confidence, and to discuss with them the details of his scheme before the last Franchise Law was passed by the Volksraad. I must express the most earnest hope that President Kruger will yet accept the proposals which will be made to him for mutual consultation on this subject,

because, as is evident, the position is still full of anxiety. Granted that the last proposals might form a basis for settlement, I cannot too strongly emphasise the absolute necessity for precision as to detail and precision as to the possibilities of the future. I will give one very short instance, and a very recent one, of how necessary it is to be precise. On a very important point in his communication with Sir Alfred Milner at Bloemfontein, President Kruger himself was misinformed. Sir Alfred Milner telegraphed to Mr. Chamberlain on July 1—

“In his memorandum June 3 President South African Republic stated naturalised citizens have right to select local officials such as field cornets, commandant, and landdrost, whereby they obtain very important influence on local government. He did not mention that on all goldfields throughout country appointment of landdrosts has been entirely taken away, even from full burghers, and placed in the hands of Government. See Gold Law 1893, chapter 2, section 9, which on this point re-enacts former legislation. President's statement is true only with regard to districts where old burghers reside, and not as regards districts in which nearly all Uitlanders are resident, and was therefore misleading on a point of importance.”

Anyone who has at all studied the government of the Transvaal knows the immense importance to the Uitlander of having an effective voice in the selection of the local officials, whose appointment might make the whole difference in the spirit of the administration. Therefore it will be seen that the President, in what may be described as a State document, urged the fact that his proposals would give this privilege to the Uitlander as a strong argument; whereas this statement was true only with regard to districts where burghers reside, and not as regards districts in which nearly all Uitlanders are resident, and was therefore misleading on a point of importance. I only bring this point forward to show the absolute necessity for precision. Nor is the necessity for precision against the possibility of a future misunderstanding less urgent when you consider that by a single Resolution, passed almost without notice, any law of the State may be contravened. I will give you a further instance. After the raid of 1895, and early in 1896, the franchise was, as a special privilege, conferred by an Act of the Volksraad on several thousand Uitlanders who had taken up arms in the

defence of the Republic. Not many of these were British subjects; they were mainly Germans, and others. Will it be believed that, by a single Resolution, passed by the Volksraad at one sitting in April last, all those special grants of the franchise of 1896 were annulled? If that is what those are liable to who have received the franchise as a special reward for devotion to the Republic, what may not the Volksraad do in future in regard to those who receive it as the result of the intervention of Her Majesty's Government, if provision is not made against it? I am asked what, under these circumstances, is the policy of Her Majesty's Government? At Bloemfontein Sir Alfred Milner, in his suggestions to President Kruger, laid down the minimum of reform which in his opinion could be expected to produce an eventual remedy for the present disquietude and discontent. That minimum was, and is, the minimum of Her Majesty's Government. I use that word in no pedantic sense; I mean that the substance for which Sir Alfred Milner contended is the substance which Her Majesty's Government have set themselves the task to secure in the interests of South Africa and of the Empire. The Uitlander population resident in the Transvaal must receive such an immediate, genuine, and effective share of representation in the First Volksraad as, when taken in conjunction with the other privileges of a full burgher of the Republic, will enable them to influence, without controlling, the government of the country. Our experience since 1881 has shown that nothing could be more dangerous, or more fraught with future mischief, than any vagueness or indefiniteness in the terms of any arrangement which may be come to on this subject between Her Majesty's Government and the Government of the South African Republic. A clear understanding, definitely recorded, is the only method of allaying any suspicion or fear that in the future another Volksraad, by fresh legislation, or another Executive, by acts of administration, might neutralize or impair the value of the concessions now made to the Uitlanders. The object, therefore, which Her Majesty's Government have in view, is to secure the concession of the reforms necessary, and to secure it in such a form as to render future doubts about its real intention impossible. This being the object of Her

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Majesty's Government, by what means do they propose to attain it? On the one hand, they are subjected to a constant pressure to provide an immediate and drastic solution for a difficulty of old standing and much complexity; on the other hand, they are being pressed to pledge themselves in advance to confine their action within definite diplomatic limits. Her Majesty's Government will yield to such pressure neither on the one hand nor on the other. As the responsibility is theirs alone, so must they alone be judges of time and pace. They refuse emphatically to be hurried or hustled by any body of opinion, either in the United Kingdom or in South Africa. They have shown, and they mean to continue to show, great patience and consideration for the difficulties of others in dealing with this question; but they have set their hand to the plough, and will not turn back till the solitary, permanent cause of disturbance in South Africa, the inequality of treatment between the two white races in the South African Republic, is removed; and, with this task before them, they decline altogether to give any pledge which would limit the means at their disposal to secure the result which must be achieved.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: The noble Earl has, if I may be allowed to say so, spoken with his usual clearness and moderation, and I am sure that none of us have a word of complaint for the manner in which he has laid his statement before the House. In the first place, I desire to say, what I hope will be believed by those who hear me, that the last thing I mean to do is to say anything which in this most difficult and serious matter will cause any embarrassment to Her Majesty's Government. At the same time, I wish to make this *caveat*, as I may call it, that probably, if affairs were in a different position—that is to say, if the negotiations, and everything connected with them, were concluded, I should feel myself free to criticise any portion of the action of the Government in the matter far more freely than I could at the present time. It is obvious that criticisms, which may be perfectly justifiable and

right when the negotiations are concluded, might be extremely injurious if they were brought forward at a moment like the present, and I reserve to myself entire liberty hereafter, if the occasion occurs, to notice points which I shall not allude to to-day. Now, my Lords, I observed that several of the speakers, including the noble Earl who has just spoken, perfectly naturally commenced by a reference to the treaty of 1881, and they did so because the present condition of affairs may be said to date from the conclusion of that treaty. As I was with Mr. Gladstone, who was most responsible for the conclusion of that treaty, I might, if it was a proper moment, say something concerning the circumstances which led to our conclusion of that treaty. But I wish now simply to make this declaration—I do not desire to raise any controversy, and I do not ask anyone to accept what I say, except as my own personal statement—that in the mind of Mr. Gladstone and of myself two motives alone influenced us in concluding that Convention. The one was the feeling that, in the annexation of the Transvaal, the full consent of the burghers themselves never having been obtained, there had been a certain amount of injustice; and the second, and very powerful motive indeed, was that we believed that if we had persevered with the war we should have run very serious danger of raising throughout South Africa a war of races—a war of a most extended kind, and one, whatever might have been the result—though I do not doubt the power of this country to carry such a war to a successful conclusion—which would have been in the last degree disastrous to South Africa. We thought that the condition in which such a war would have left the country would have rendered its government a task of enormous difficulty. Those were the two motives which actuated us at the time. To a certain extent—but by no means, I am happy to say, in so acute a form—the problem now presents itself again, because, in the whole consideration of this matter, you have to consider the feelings and the situation of the different populations in South Africa which are included in the Colonies and in the States which compose the whole of South Africa as it is generally known. And possibly the most important consideration of all—though I am far from neglecting the importance of

considering the feelings and the interests of the British population—is to consider how far it is possible so to frame your policy as to carry with you the sympathy of our Dutch fellow-subjects at the Cape. That is to a great extent the key of the position; neither do I think that it is by any means impossible to attain that end. Now, after the cession of the Transvaal, and for a considerable time, although there were very serious differences, no doubt, nothing very acute occurred, and there were decided symptoms that there was a settlement of passion and of feeling in South Africa gradually going on which, I think, might reasonably have been hoped to have led to a far more settled state of things. But then occurred two very remarkable incidents: first of all the enormous discovery of gold, which altered the whole condition of affairs in the Transvaal, and secondly, that most unfortunate and disastrous incident, the raid. My Lords, it is in vain to conceal from oneself that the raid, to use a familiar term, “put back the clock” a long way in South Africa, and in everything we do we must bear that in mind; and if some of our friends there were not too eager to take up the grievances of the Uitlanders—I mean some of our Dutch friends—I think they may be pardoned after such an occurrence as the raid, unjustifiable and disastrous as it was. But I in no way deny what the noble Earl and others have pointed out, that the condition of affairs, as regards the Uitlanders, is in the last degree unsatisfactory. It is not only unsatisfactory because we naturally feel that British subjects looking to the original Convention, looking to our natural feelings on the subject, ought to be treated with fairness by the Government of the South African Republic; but we also feel, and I think that is a deeper and a more important feeling, that the condition of affairs in the South African Republic is a standing danger to the whole of South Africa, and that until you arrive at some more favourable condition of things in that particular portion of South Africa you cannot look forward to that state of rest and contentment and of safety which we desire throughout the whole of our possessions there, and in those States which are connected with us. But, my Lords, after I have said that, I still must say another word—shall I say in excuse, for I can hardly use the word

defence—of President Kruger and those who are responsible for the Government of the Transvaal. Consider for a moment the position in which they found themselves. They, a small community of Dutch farmers, and living a purely rural life, suddenly found themselves invaded by a large and rather motley industrial population. Can we be surprised that such men felt alarmed and felt distaste at the idea that this new population should swamp them entirely, and destroy, as they imagined it would destroy, the condition of things which they had cherished and to which they were accustomed? I think if we put ourselves in their place we shall see that their action is not so surprising as some people imagine it to be. I do not say that it is justifiable, but I say that we must take into account their natural feelings in the matter, and we must also take into account the natural sympathy of the Dutch throughout South Africa with the Dutch of the South African Republic—a sympathy which, I believe, has not prevented them from giving to us loyal assistance in endeavouring to settle the questions which have arisen, but which at the same time is an element which always is one of difficulty, because, as the old saying is, “Blood is thicker than water,” and there is a natural feeling, of course, on the part of the Dutch of the whole of South Africa of sympathy with those of them who live in the South African Republic. My Lords, I have alluded to the action of the Dutch in assisting us, and I was very glad indeed to hear the remarks made by the noble Earl concerning the assistance which Mr. Schreiner, the head of the Cape Government, had given in these various negotiations. I think it is satisfactory to observe that not only did Mr. Schreiner go to the Conference at Bloemfontein, but that Mr. Hofmeyr also went there with a view to giving his assistance, and I cannot doubt that the pressure which Mr. Schreiner exercised upon the Government of the South African Republic and Mr. Kruger has been a most valuable and important element in the whole of these negotiations. I observe also with satisfaction that in a telegram which is to be found in this second Blue Book—which, by the way, was never distributed to Members of this House, and of which I obtained a copy only from the House of Commons—in a telegram

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of the 16th June, Mr. Chamberlain said:

“Her Majesty’s Government are most anxious to avoid interference with the internal affairs of the South African Republic. They trust that the Cape Ministers will use all the influence they can to induce the South African Republic Government to take such action as will relieve Her Majesty’s Government from the necessity of considering the question of being obliged to have recourse to interference of such a nature.”

I say I regard that with satisfaction, because it showed, I think, on the part of Mr. Chamberlain, representing Her Majesty’s Government, a true and sound view of the matter—namely, that he welcomed the assistance of the Dutch Ministers, and welcomed that as one important element in the case. I sincerely trust that that will never be lost sight of. I do not believe in the disloyalty in any way of the Dutch subjects of Her Majesty at the Cape; I believe, on the contrary, that of late years they have given various remarkable and signal marks of their good feeling towards this country, and I cannot doubt that, if the subject is judiciously and carefully handled, it will be found that the assistance that they can give us in settling this most difficult matter will not be wanting. Now, I observed upon the embarrassing position in which the Transvaal Burghers no doubt found themselves. In 1890 they passed a law which took away from the Uitlanders the privilege of obtaining burghership, which they had previously enjoyed. As far as I know—I merely mention it in passing—I do not remember to have heard that any protest was made at the time by the Government of this country (we were not then in office) against that action. From that dates, of course, the disability which the Uitlanders have laboured under. You will observe that the change of the law of 1890 was avowedly made to prevent Uitlanders from being admitted in such numbers to burghership as would swamp the Dutch burghers, and upon that point Sir Alfred Milner is, in point of fact, in accord with the object, though he would not, no doubt, approve of all the means that have been taken. In his despatch of June 14th, which is at page 51 of the Bloemfontein Blue Book, you will find the precise statement of the terms of the proposals which Sir Alfred Milner made at the Conference, and there he expressly states that he recognises that you must

not "swamp," as he terms it, the Transvaal burghers. That is the principle upon which President Kruger and his Government have gone, only they have carried it to an extravagant and unfair length; but Sir Alfred Milner himself recognises that, looking to the whole state of circumstances, you cannot at once insist upon complete equality of all the Uitlanders with the burghers. In the closing part of the noble Earl's speech, I think he went rather further than he, perhaps, himself would have intended, when he said that Her Majesty's Government must insist upon complete equality between the Uitlanders and the burghers. No doubt that is an end to be aimed at eventually, at some distant time; but I cannot conceive it to be the policy of Her Majesty's Government to insist immediately upon that, nor do I think that there are any indications that that is the policy that is intended to be followed.

THE EARL OF SELBORNE: The words I used were, "influence without controlling the government."

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: If it is that, I have nothing to say; but I will only just repeat that, of course, it is impossible at the present time to secure, and I know Her Majesty's Government have not contended that it is possible to secure, complete equality, because Sir Alfred Milner's proposal itself did not at once introduce complete equality. Now, my Lords, I shall not trouble the House with general considerations any farther, but let us look closely at what is really the point—the present position of affairs practically. The present position of affairs is this—I am speaking now of the negotiation—that a Conference having been assembled, at which Mr. Kruger and Sir Alfred Milner met, Mr. Kruger and Sir Alfred Milner were unable to come to any agreement; Mr. Kruger made certain proposals which Sir Alfred Milner considered quite unacceptable; Sir Alfred Milner made proposals on his part which Mr. Kruger equally rejected. That was the position with which the Bloemfontein Conference concluded. Now, what has occurred since? What has occurred since is that one concession after another has been made, going further than President Kruger's original proposals, and some of those concessions are substantive and im-

portant. Those who have read the Blue Books will remember a conversation which Sir Alfred Milner had with Mr. Schreiner. Mr. Schreiner mentioned two points which he thought "were not of such first-rate importance"; one was the getting rid of the intermediate term where a man was to be naturalised without attaining burghership; and there was another point; but upon his mentioning them, Sir Alfred Milner at once said, "Those points are points of great importance." Now, those points have been conceded by Mr. Kruger, and they are points of very great importance. He has conceded that the intermediate time—a most objectionable provision—when a man would neither be a complete naturalised burgher nor would have remained with his rights as a foreigner—he has conceded that that intermediate time shall be abolished; and he has further conceded that seven years shall be the term of residence which will qualify a man for obtaining burghership, and the effect of that is to admit, at all events, all those Uitlanders who were resident in the Transvaal in 1890. To that extent they will obtain the franchise. Now, those are two very important concessions. I believe there is a third concession, but I do not find it in the Blue Book. It seems to be, at all events, not plainly stated there; but I have read in the various sources of intelligence from the Cape (not always, I am afraid, quite trustworthy) that a considerable addition has been promised, or is likely to be premised, to the number of seats which are to be added to the Raad. The original proposal was four, and I have since seen the statement that it is to be raised to seven, or, according to some accounts, people go so far as to say that it is to be raised to ten. I think, at all events, that I may conclude that there are decided indications of an intention to add to the number of seats. These three concessions are very important concessions, and seem to me to be of such a nature as to give reasonable hope that we may arrive at a satisfactory settlement. No doubt, Sir Alfred Milner pointed out that they fall short of those proposals that he made, and that they will not do all that is desired; but at present, at all events—Her Majesty's Government may have correct information, but I think they would probably indicate it to us if they had—I imagine there is very considerable

doubt as to the actual number of Uitlanders who, under the new law, will be admitted, and it seems quite obvious that, as a practical question, it is almost impossible to form a just opinion as to the value of the concession, unless you can really obtain some reasonable calculation of the number of Uitlanders who would be at once admitted, and the number of Uitlanders who would be admitted within a certain time. I apprehend that, putting aside questions of this or that number of years, what Her Majesty Government has been very properly aiming at is that such a number of Uitlanders shall be admitted, and such a number of seats shall be given to them, as to give them at once some real sensible participation in the government of the country. That is what seems to be aimed at; but until you know what number of Uitlanders are really likely to be admitted, one is rather beating the air when one criticises the proposals. I should not myself venture to criticise them beyond what I have said—that I think they are substantive concessions, and that I do not think there is any reason to despair (“despair,” I think, was the word used by the noble Earl) of there being means to obtain a satisfactory settlement. My Lords, of course there are in the air all kinds of rumours of wars and armaments, and I know not what. My noble friend, Lord Camperdown, who introduced this subject to the House, referred—not in terms of approval—to a statement made some weeks ago by my right hon. friend Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the Leader of the Opposition in the other House, in which he declared, as far as I remember the words, that he did not know that anything had occurred which would justify war or preparation for war; I think that that is a correct repetition of his words. My noble friend, Lord Camperdown, thought that that was an unwise and mischievous declaration. I can only say that I associate myself with that declaration of my right hon. friend, and I associate myself with it in this way: I suppose that, in all matters of diplomacy and negotiation, everyone knows that, however you may sometimes keep it in the background, a most important element in that diplomacy is the knowledge of the strength of the nations who are engaged in the discussion. The existence of a powerful force in the hands of one nation

always is—always must be—it cannot be otherwise—a very important element, indeed, in all negotiations of a very serious nature. But the question which we have to consider, or the question which I at least feel that I have to consider here, when I allude to this declaration of Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman's, is this: Have matters arrived at the point where you can say that war or great preparations for war are necessary? When I say preparations for war I do not mean to include in that such preparations as may put into proper order, if it is required, a force which you may have on the spot, because it is obviously the duty at all times of the Government to see that the force they have available in any part of the world is really available for any contingency which may occur. Putting that out of the question, I say myself, as far as I am able to judge from the Papers that have been laid before us, and the intelligence we have received from other sources, nothing has yet occurred which would justify war or lead us to anticipate that war is imminent, or, in point of fact, to justify us in considering that a case has arisen for war. I say no more than that, and I associate myself, therefore, with that declaration of my old colleague, which, I believe—and, in fact, I know—has no greater signification than that. My reason for making such a declaration is this, that it is impossible to conceal from oneself that there is a party, not only in South Africa, but, to a certain extent, there are those among us, who rather seem to wish to make it appear that we have arrived at such a crisis that threats of war are really necessary. Now, that is what I altogether deprecate. I believe myself that the proper course is that which is well described by Sir Alfred Milner in his recent speech—“a line of firm but friendly pressure.” That seems to me to be the line which at the present juncture is, if I may venture to say so, the duty of Her Majesty's Government. More than that, I am quite willing to believe that that is the course which Her Majesty's Government are pursuing—“a firm but friendly pressure.” Of course, none of us can absolutely pretend to foresee all the contingencies which may occur, and none of us, I suppose, would be prepared to bind ourselves absolutely as to what should be done in this or that contingency. But our duty at the present time—at least, my duty

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is to give my opinion upon the question, Has a case now arisen where war is, in point of fact, a necessity? In my opinion no such case has arisen, and I do not believe that anyone does either this country or South Africa good service by declaring that it has. Let us have "firm but friendly pressure"—firm pressure, by all means—such a pressure as will make it plainly and clearly understood by all concerned that this country is in earnest. I in no way wish to diminish from that. No difficult matter can be carried through unless the country is in earnest; but I believe and hope that that earnestness will result in a peaceful settlement, and that it may lay the foundation for what we all desire—a lasting peace and tranquillity in our South African dominions.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY): If the noble Earl felt, in dealing with this question, that he was hampered by the present state of the transactions which are going on, he will not be surprised if I confess that I am of a similar impression, but to a much greater degree, in view of the events that are actually passing, and the unfortunate effect which any ill-judged words might have. I, therefore, shall accept the suggestion which is made to me by the clock, that I should not be very lengthy in my remarks. The point that struck me most was the gallant attempt of the noble Earl to defend the action of President Kruger. It was very amiable on his part, and showed a great willingness to undertake the conduct of forlorn hopes. To my mind, the protocol which has been so often referred to, and which recorded a conversation between Sir Evelyn Wood and President Kruger when the Convention of 1881 was under negotiation, is really the great condemnation of the action of President Kruger. It was stated as clearly as possible in that protocol, and was evidently the object of the action of the two Powers at the time, that an era of friendly co-operation should be introduced, in which both races should have, under the conduct of both Governments, the utmost equality it was possible to confer on them. That was the guiding principle of the Government in 1881. I do not affect to sympathise

with the view they took. I was in a different position from Lord Camperdown, who opened this Debate; I did not support it at the time; on the contrary, I resisted it to the utmost of my power. I thought it was a policy tainted with the fault, which is a virtue in many men's eyes, but in my eyes is almost the most dangerous fault a policy can have—it was an optimistic policy. It was an undue belief in the effect of amiable acts not supported by requisite strength. The noble Earl shakes his head; he disclaims the possession of any feelings of amiability at the time; but, at all events, it was a belief that, in acting on the feelings of the Dutch population, and invoking their gratitude by setting up this Transvaal Republic, you would avoid any danger of further friction or difficulty with them. The fallacy of that calculation was that you were acting on the morrow of a very conspicuous, if not a very great, defeat, and that your motives were, in the general apprehension, much more largely tinged with prudence than amiability. Attempts to obtain gratitude of persons are very seldom successful if those persons have the impression that you are very much afraid of them at the same time. However, that was, no doubt, the view of our policy to which President Kruger assented in that well-known protocol, and it was the view to which he was bound throughout the rest of his political career in connection with the Transvaal State to devote himself. But he took the exactly opposite line. Throughout the whole of the period that has elapsed since 1881, his one effort has been to separate the English and the Republican Government—to draw the two nations into two camps, to give the Dutch a superiority to which their numbers gave them no title over the English, and to reduce the English to the condition almost of a conquered, certainly of a subjugated, race. I do not entirely blame him for the kind of panic which appeared to have seized on him and his advisers at the irruption of the gold diggers in 1886. It was not a very attractive population at first sight, and it is quite conceivable that they might have felt some anxiety lest those gold diggers should be able to so completely dominate the government that the Dutch might suffer precisely the disadvantages which the British Uitlanders are suffering now. I can understand

and I can, to some extent, make allowance for that apprehension; but where I blame him was that, when this difficulty came upon him, instead of remembering the engagements which he had entered into with the English Queen—instead of remembering the recognition of the position of England which in those two Conventions is, at all events, to a very great extent manifestly and unquestionably recognised—he placed himself in an attitude of sheer opposition, and never came to the English Government to consult them as to how this great and marvellous phenomenon of the irruption could be dealt with. I do not think any one could have said to him, “You are bound to allow your Dutch population to be overwhelmed and swept away”; but it is obvious that, with goodwill and consideration, institutions might have been arranged which would have given sufficient protection to the Uitlanders and the Digger population, without entirely annihilating the Dutch. That, I think, is the great blame which is to be attached to him, but I refer to it specially for another purpose. There is an attempt to put the Conventions of 1881 and 1884 in the position of “the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.” I entirely concur with my noble friend, Lord Selborne, that from the moment the Conventions were passed, no English authority desired that any step should be taken to recall them or to cancel them. So long as they were observed, so long as they were given their due vitality, I believe that every party in England was willing to recognise and sustain them. But these Conventions are mortal. They are liable to be destroyed; they can be destroyed by the act of the parties for whose benefit they were concluded, and I wish to protest against the idea that they constitute an immovable landmark to which, whatever may happen, we must infallibly recur. I believe the reverse is the case. Little as we are disposed to disturb these Conventions while they are allowed fair and honourable life, very few of us now, I think, if we could retrace the history of the last twenty years, would ask that the seal of England should be applied to Conventions in that form. If ever it happens that the validity of these Conventions is impeached, I believe they belong from that time entirely to history. What would take their place I do not know, but it will not

be Conventions in the same style. If this country has to make exertions in order to secure the most elementary justice for British subjects, I am quite sure we will not reinstate a state of things which will bring back the old difficulties in all their formidable character at the next turn of the road. That seems to me a very material consideration; and, if I may intrude upon his thoughts, I do not think President Kruger has sufficiently considered it. But with respect to our present policy, it has been so very well and clearly stated by my noble friend, Lord Selborne, that it would be idle for me to repeat it. His words are exactly those I should have chosen. We have to rescue British subjects from treatment which we should not think it right to endure in any country, even if there were no conventional engagements between us, but which it is doubly wrongful that we should permit when the very terms of the protocols and Conventions of 1881 and 1884 obviously protect them from any such disgraceful a fate. How we are going to do this, how we intend to apply a remedy to dissipate this great evil, that naturally I cannot examine in detail. I agree with the noble Earl opposite that the advances which have been made are to a certain extent hopeful: and if they are genuinely carried out, and if they show a real desire to eliminate this racial inequality and put the two races fairly and honestly on the same footing, I think that we may look forward to a peaceful solution of a crisis which is undoubtedly complicated and anxious. How long we are to consider this solution, what patience we are bound to show—these things I will not discuss, for a reason the noble Earl suggested to me. We have to consider, not only the feelings of the inhabitants of the Transvaal, but what is much more important to us, the feelings of our fellow-subjects at the Cape. That is a consideration we must bear carefully in mind. We should be deeply responsible if any undue impatience or irritation on our part should cause an angry termination of a controversy that otherwise might have been the subject of a peaceful solution. But I can only say what, in one form or another, has been said by many members of Her Majesty's Government—I prefer to use the words of my noble friend, Lord Selborne—we have put our hands to the plough, and we do not intend to withdraw them from it.

The Marquess of Salisbury.

TITHE RENT-CHARGE (RATES) BILL.

Read 3^a (according to Order), and passed.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD (IRELAND) BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order); Bill reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^a on Monday next.

House adjourned at twenty minutes before Eight of the clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 28th July 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.**GODALMING CORPORATION . WATER BILL.****LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY (NEW RAILWAYS) BILL.****SHEFFIELD CORPORATION MARKETS BILL.**

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

MOSS SIDE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (TRAMWAYS) BILL [Lords].

Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

RENFREW BURGH AND HARBOUR EXTENSION BILL [Lords].

(Queen's Consent signified.) Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

STRETTFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (TRAMWAYS) BILL [Lords].**WESTON - SUPER - MARE, CLEVEDON, AND PORTISHEAD TRAMWAYS COMPANY (LIGHT RAILWAY EXTENSIONS) BILL [Lords].**

Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE GRAND PIER BILL [Lords].

Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

WITHINGTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (TRAMWAYS) BILL [Lords].

Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

FYLDE WATER BOARD BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time.

WAKEFIELD CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

SOUTHPORT AND LYTHAM TRAMROAD BILL [Lords].

Ordered, That Standing Order 235 be suspended in the case of the Southport and Lytham Tramroad Bill [Lords], and that the Bill be now read a second time—*(Dr. Farquharson.)*

Bill accordingly read a second time, and committed.

GAS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (NO. 2) BILL [Lords].

Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next.

PORTSMOUTH CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PETITIONS.**INEBRIATES ACT, 1898.**

Petition from Patricroft, for alteration of law; to lie upon the Table.

MERCHANT SHIPPING (LIMITATION OF LIABILITY OF SHIPOWNERS) BILL.

Petition from Montrose, against; to lie upon the Table.

POOR LAW AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1845.

Petitions for alteration of law,—From Uphall, Mordington, and Applecross; to lie upon the Table.

TITHE RENT-CHARGE (RATES) BILL.

Petition from Haslingden, against; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS).

Copy presented,—of Annual Report on the Distribution of Grants for Agricultural Education and Research in the year 1898–9, with Statements respecting the several Colleges and Institutions aided, and the experiments conducted [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

FEE FUND (HOUSE OF LORDS).

Account presented,—of the Fee Fund of the House of Lords from 1st April, 1898, to 31st March, 1899 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LAND REGISTRY.

Return presented,—relative thereto [Ordered 7th July—*Mr. H. D. Greene*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 304.)

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).

Copy presented,—of Report No. 263 (Falkland Islands, Annual Report for 1898) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

MARGARINE ACT, 1887 (MANUFACTORIES).

Return presented,—relative thereto [Address 11th May—*Mr. Arthur Moore*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 305.)

ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND.

Copy presented,—of Seventeenth Report of the Royal University of Ireland, being for the year 1898 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented,—of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2321 and 2322 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TURKEY (No. 2, 1899).

Copy presented,—of Report by Her Majesty's Commissioner in Crete on the Provisional British Administration of the Province of Candia [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PAPERS LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

1. Endowed Charities (County of Middlesex),—Return relative thereto

[ordered 16th February—*Mr. Grant Lawson*]; to be printed. (No. 306.)

2. Endowed Charities (County of Rutland),—Return relative thereto [ordered 16th February—*Mr. Grant Lawson*]; to be printed. (No. 307.)

3. Lunacy,—Copy of Return to the Lord Chancellor of the number of visits made and the number of patients seen by the several Commissioners of Lunacy during the six months ending on the 30th June, 1899 [by Act].

QUESTIONS.

THE "BULLFINCH" DISASTER.

SIR EDWARD GOURLEY (Sunderland): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty if he will state the number of revolutions per minute and the speed at which the "Bullfinch" was being driven when she broke down in the Solent, also of the torpedo-catcher which met with a similar accident when off Sunderland last week; can he state whether the scantling of the machinery was supplied by the Admiralty or the contractor, and whether he will consider if the machinery used on board torpedo-catchers and torpedo-boats is sufficiently strong to meet the energy with which the engines have to be driven; and will he inform the House why these vessels when on their trial trips are not accompanied by surgeons.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. GOSCHEN, St. George's, Hanover Square): As the cause of the accident in the "Bullfinch" is being officially inquired into by a coroner's inquest, it would be improper to make any statement on the subject at present.

VENEREAL DISEASE AT GIBRALTAR.

MR. PIERPOINT (Warrington): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty what are the statistics of venereal disease amongst the crews of Her Majesty's ships, which has been contracted, or presumably contracted, at Gibraltar; and, whether he has received from the Admirals of the Channel or Mediterranean Fleets, or from any of the officers commanding any of Her Majesty's ships stationed at or calling at Gibraltar in the last twelve months, any complaints or

reports concerning the prevalence of such disease at Gibraltar.

MR. GOSCHEN : The number of cases of venereal disease among the crews of Her Majesty's ships treated at Gibraltar Hospital have averaged during the last five years 89 annually. In the last year the number was 134. No such communications as those referred to in the last paragraph of the question have been received at the Admiralty ; but I am aware that the state of things is far from satisfactory, and it has not failed to receive my careful attention.

THE CLEWER SISTERS AND THE WINDSOR TROOPS.

MR. SAMUEL SMITH (Flintshire) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether it is with the sanction of the Secretary of State for War that two of the Clewer sisters habitually frequent both the barracks at Windsor, in opposition to the strongly urged protest of the chaplain, and whether an annual charge of £25 from the canteen fund of each regiment is made to the sisterhood ; and whether, on the occasion of the presentation of colours by the Queen to the Scots Guards on the 15th instant, the Rev. Arthur Robins, who for 26 years has been the Church of England chaplain, was not suffered to appear in connection with the ceremony in which his own soldiers were taking part ; and, if so, whether this was done with the sanction of the Secretary of State for War.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover) : The visits of the Clewer sisters, and the payments made to them from canteen funds, have received the sanction of the Secretary of State. There is no Church of England chaplain to the troops at Windsor. The Rev. Arthur Robins is a local clergyman who officiates to the troops there. His presence was not required at the presentation of the colours, as the Church of England was represented by the Chaplain-General. Mr. Robins, like the other officiating clergymen, was invited to witness the ceremony.

ALDERSHOT CAMP SEWAGE FARM.

MR. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) : I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether he can give a Return of the trading profit and loss account and

balance-sheet for the preceding year of the Camp Sewage Farm at Aldershot ; whether he is aware that the milk has to be sold at a lower price than other milk in the same district on account of the proximity of the sewage outfalls ; whether the War Office has been obliged to expend the sum of £3,300 during the last year on the drainage and buildings of this farm ; and if it is intended to spend more money on endeavouring to turn this sewage farm into a dairy farm for the purposes of selling milk.

MR. WYNDHAM : There was a small loss on the farm account of last year, but the farm nevertheless fulfilled economically the purpose for which it was established—namely, the disposal of the camp sewage, capital outlay as well as current expenses being taken into account. In view of the recent report of Dr. Andrewes, confirmed, as it has since been, by observations of the medical officer of health for the county, it has been decided to continue the farm as at present constituted, and to keep a close watch on the conditions which manifest themselves. So far, no nuisance or danger to health has presented itself, even under the trying conditions which have prevailed during the exceptionally hot weather of the last few weeks. Directions have been given that the milk from the farm is not to be sold below the current rates of the district.

SANITARY CONDITION OF GIBRALTAR.

MR. PIERPOINT : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether, since the reception of the Report of the Committee appointed to inquire into the general and sanitary condition of Gibraltar, any steps have been taken, and, if so, what, in respect of the venereal disease prevailing amongst the garrison ; whether he will give the statistics of such disease in the Royal Artillery, in the Royal Engineers, in the Grenadier Guards, in the Coldstream Guards, and in the Manchester Regiment, respectively ; whether the report of the Committee will be laid upon the Table without further delay ; and, whether the Governor has absolute power to send out of Gibraltar, without reason given, any person who is likely to spread disease amongst the troops.

MR. WYNDHAM: The recommendations of the Committee have necessitated a good deal of correspondence between the three departments concerned (War Office, Admiralty, Colonial Office), and there is every reason to believe that an agreement will be come to with regard to the more important points. I am unable to give the information asked for in the second question, as the statistics do not distinguish between corps. A new Governor will assume office in the autumn, and his views will be ascertained before a final decision is arrived at. The Secretary of State will consult the Colonial Office and the Admiralty as to the desirability of presenting the Report to Parliament.

CAVALRY DRAFTS.

CAPTAIN JESSEL (St. Pancras, S.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether the Cavalry Depôt is to furnish drafts only for regiments serving in the Colonies and Egypt; and, if so, whether he will explain how drafts will be supplied during the ensuing trooping season for regiments in India.

MR. WYNDHAM: As I have already stated to the House, the system which we have established is that drafts for cavalry regiments in India shall be supplied by regiments on the lower establishment at home, while drafts to regiments in the Colonies shall be supplied from depôts. But we have also pledged ourselves that the system, when fully established, shall be so worked as not to reduce the draft-giving regiments at home below a nucleus of 350 rank and file. I may remind the House that that pledge, which was given in February, 1898, does not fall due till the spring of 1901. But we are desirous to help the regiments at home, as far as we can, over the difficult period of transition, and we have therefore arranged that drafts for the two Lancer regiments in India shall, for the present, be taken from depôts.

ELECTRIC LIGHT CONTRACT AT PRETORIA.

MR. STUART-WORTLEY (Sheffield Hallam): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether it is a fact that in the month of November, 1895, the Government of the South African Republic, in calling for tenders for the supply of electric light or power for the Government printing office in the town of

Pretoria, made an express stipulation that only Continental manufacturers should be employed, thereby excluding British manufacturers.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): Yes. Information on the subject was supplied by the High Commissioner in a despatch of the 27th of June, 1896, printed in the Papers laid before Parliament in April, 1897. (C. 8,423) page 40.

FEDERATION IN AUSTRALASIA.

MR. HOGAN (Tipperary, Mid.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has received any official information as to the results of the referendum on the federation question in Victoria and Tasmania.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have received the following telegram from the Governor of Victoria:—"Victoria has emphatically affirmed amended federal constitution by overwhelming majority—affirmative vote at present, 141,611; negative vote, 9,179; further returns will increase majority." And, also, the following telegram from the Acting Governor of Tasmania:—"Amended Federal Constitution Bill adopted by majority of sixteen to one."

SIERRA LEONE ORDINANCES.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if the Sierra Leone Ordinance, No. 14, of 1898, called The Insurgents' Temporary Detention Ordinance, 1898, has been repealed.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The answer is in the negative.

SLAVERY IN NIGERIA.

MR. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether, seeing that, the legal status being abolished in the Niger Company's territories, he will also cause it to be abolished in the rest of Southern Nigeria and Lagos.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Slavery is not recognised by any British Court in Lagos or the Niger Coast Protectorate, which appear in this respect to be in

exactly the same position as the Royal Niger Company's territories.

DELAGOA BAY ARBITRATION.

MR. BROOKFIELD (Sussex, Rye): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, with reference to the Delagoa Bay Railway Company Court of Arbitration, which has been sitting since 1890, whether the death of any one of the jurists forming that court would render all its proceedings nugatory; and can he state what effect such an event would have upon the chances of the court's being able to make a final Report in the autumn of the present year.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): The answer to the first portion of the question is in the affirmative, but I fear I must decline to express an opinion on a matter of a hypothetical nature such as is referred to in the concluding portion of the question.

THE BANGKOK - KHORAT RAILWAY CONTRACT.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Her Majesty's Government have failed to obtain any redress from the Siamese Government for the firm of Jardine, Matheson, who in August, 1896, were forcibly ejected by the Siamese police from the Bangkok-Khorat railway contract; whether redress has been granted in somewhat similar cases to subjects of other Powers, as for example to United States citizens, for breach of agreement by the Siamese Government; what steps Her Majesty's Government intend to take to obtain redress; and, whether the correspondence on the Khorat railway case can be presented to Parliament.

*MR. BRODRICK: The disputes between the Siamese railway department and the English contractor for the Bangkok-Khorat railway, for whom Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Company acted as agents, were referred to arbitration in accordance with the provision to that effect in the contract. The contractor, however, withdrew from the arbitration. An agreement is now about to be signed between the Siamese Government and the contractor for the submission of certain

questions to the decision of eminent English counsel. It is not proposed to lay before Parliament any correspondence in regard to this matter.

BOY SAILORS.

SIR EDWARD GOURLEY: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can now state the nature of the regulations (promised early in the session) which he intends to formulate for the purpose of enabling shipowners to obtain a rebate in light dues when carrying apprentices; and, will he further state, whether any and how many shipowners have intimated their intention of complying with the Act.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): The regulations to which the hon. Member refers were issued in March last. Copies were sent to Shipowners and Shipmasters' Associations and to the Local Marine Boards. In fact, every possible step was taken to secure publicity. I shall be happy to furnish the hon. Member with a copy of the regulations in question. No special intimation has been made to the Board of Trade as to the extent to which shipowners generally are likely to avail themselves of the provisions of the Act as regards boy sailors.

IMPRISONMENT FOR NON-PAYMENT OF FINES.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON (Glasgow, Bridgeton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps have been taken under the new prison rules to inform prisoners incarcerated in default of payment of fines of the recent change in the law, which provides for their working out their sentence partly by money payment and partly by imprisonment.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir M. WHITE RIDLEY, Lancs, Blackpool): Governors of prisons have been instructed to inform these prisoners on reception of the change in the law, and the communication which is sent, if the prisoner wishes it, to his friends with regard to payment, has also been altered in accordance with the new law.

CASES UNDER THE FACTORY ACT.

MR. TENNANT (Berwickshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the

Home Department, what steps he proposes to take to secure a decision in respect of the matters in dispute in the case taken under the Factory Acts, which was recently dismissed by Irish magistrates, and dismissed again on appeal owing to the oversight of the Irish Crown Solicitor; and, whether any action is contemplated with regard to the oversight of that official.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: I trust that the proceedings referred to, though they failed on a technical point, will have the effect of inducing the defendant company to observe the requirements of the Factory Acts. If, however, I find that the Acts, which are enforced in England and Scotland, are disregarded in Ireland, I shall have no course open but to authorise further proceedings. I am informed that the Crown Solicitor has been reprimanded and cautioned.

THE FACTORY DEPARTMENT.

MR. TENNANT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when he will complete the alterations in the Factory Department contemplated in the Estimates for the current year; and, whether he has yet appointed a Deputy Chief Inspector.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: I hope to have made, by the end of the current year, all the leading new appointments entailed by the reorganisation of the Factory Department. I have not yet appointed a Deputy Chief Inspector.

POSTAL REGULATIONS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

MR. MADDISON (Sheffield, Brightside): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether he is aware that five Post Office employees, lodging in one house in London, reported to the authorities that a case of scarlet fever had occurred in the dwelling on 6th July, and in accordance with the rules of the Post Office they remained off duty; but that five days afterwards two of the men, who are telegraphists engaged at the Northern District Office, were ordered to return to duty, the others remaining absent; and, whether he can state why the ordinary departmental rules relating to infectious diseases have been broken in this instance.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): All the officers to whom the question refers were instructed to resume duty under the advice of the Chief Medical Officer, to the department. The ordinary rules at present in force have been observed in this instance.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES.

MR. LEES KNOWLES (Salford, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether, as the Post Office authorities decline to register certain telegraphic addresses, although such addresses may have been used for many years, without the written consent of everyone having a claim to such addresses, he will take into consideration a proposal that notices should be placed in local post offices stating that particular telegraphic addresses will be registered if no objection is raised; and whether he is aware that in some instances postcards, addressed in precisely the same way as telegrams alleged to be insufficiently addressed, are delivered.

MR. HANBURY: When there is more than one person of the same name in a town the practice is to require the person desiring to register the name to obtain the consent of the other interested parties, and this arrangement has worked well. It is quite possible that a postcard or letter may be delivered and a telegram bearing the same address fail to be delivered. A name which is known to the regular postman is not known to the telegraph messenger. In order, therefore, to insure the prompt delivery a telegram requires, it is important that a sufficient address should be given to admit its being delivered without difficulty or the necessity for making inquiries.

EDINBURGH MUSEUM ATTENDANT.

MR. DEWAR (Edinburgh): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, whether he is aware that the late William Samuel, an attendant for thirty-three years in Edinburgh Museum, was retired on a pension of £52 1s. 6d. per annum in January last; and that he died in April, leaving a widow, and without having received any portion of his pension. Whether he has been informed that the said William Samuel surrendered as pension equivalent from his weekly wage sums amounting in

all to £58 9s. 4d. Whether he is aware that on 12th April, 1892, the Royal Commission on the Civil Service issued a report recommending that in the event of the death of a pensioner before the amount received in pension has reached the whole of the sum deducted from his pay during his service, his representatives should receive the difference between such total deductions and the amount received as pension. Whether he has been informed that the widow of the said William Samuel has made application, in terms of said recommendation, to have the sum of £58 9s. 4d., the pension equivalent deducted from her husband's pay, refunded to her; and that this application has been refused. And, whether he will now take such steps as he may consider necessary to have the Royal Commission's recommendation carried out, and Mrs. Samuel's husband's money refunded to her.

MR. HANBURY: In 1891 an arrangement was made by the Treasury under which certain messengers and attendants under the Science and Art Department were allowed to qualify for pensions on the ordinary terms. When no previous service was to be counted towards pension no deduction from wages was to be made. When previous service was to be counted, a deduction was to be made varying from $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. where the service was less than ten years to 10 per cent. where it was over thirty years. The Committee of Council were expressly informed that such deductions were not "contributions towards pension" in the technical sense, and that they would not be returned in cases where a messenger or attendant died before receiving his pension. The deduction was practically the payment of a premium in order to obtain a deferred annuity at a given age or for ill-health. Any balance of pension due to the late W. Samuel will, of course, be payable to his representative. Paragraph 93, of the Second Report of the Ridley Commission (to which the hon. Member probably intended to refer) relates, not to the existing pension scheme, but to a suggested arrangement which has never been adopted.

PONTYPRIDD COUNTY COURTS.

MR. ALFRED THOMAS (Glamorgan-shire, E.): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works when the improved accommodation promised some months

since for carrying on the proceedings of the county courts in Pontypridd will be commenced.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): I am not aware of any promise having been made of improved accommodation, but I did promise carefully to consider the question, which presents serious difficulties in regard to further building on the County Court site. I am endeavouring to find how these structural difficulties may best be overcome.

MARGARINE FACTORY RETURN.

MR. ARTHUR J. MOORE (London-derry): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that a Return of Margarine Manufacturers (in continuation of the Return of Session, 1892), moved for some two months ago, has not yet been made to the House; and, if he could explain to the House how he intends to set the new Act in motion, should it become law, when the local authorities are unwilling, or unable, to make such a Return as the one ordered within two months of the Order of the House.

***THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE** (Mr. LONG, Liverpool, West Derby): I am aware of the fact to which the hon. Member refers, but I do not think it need be concluded therefrom that we shall experience any great difficulty in securing the efficient working of the Sale of Food and Drugs Bill when it becomes law. A certain amount of delay in the presentation of a Return is not unlikely to occur when information has to be obtained from several hundred sources in all three divisions of the United Kingdom.

THE CHARITY COMMISSIONERS AND EDUCATIONAL TRUSTS.

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: (Rochester): I beg to ask the hon. Member for Thirsk, as representing the Charity Commissioners, whether he can state how many educational trust were dealt with by order of the Charity Commissioners under the Charitable Trusts Acts in the year ending the 31st December 1898.

THE PARLIAMENTARY CHARITY COMMISSIONER (Mr. GRANT LAWSON, Yorkshire, N. R., Thirsk): No distinction between endowed charities based upon the variety of their objects is made by the Charitable Trusts Acts, nor is any such distinction observed in the classification of business done by the Charity Commissioners in the administration of these Acts. For the purpose of answering the question put it would be necessary to make a special examination of the trusts of each of the charities dealt with by the 3,886 orders made during 1898, a work which the Commissioners are not prepared to undertake. An examination has, however, lately been made of 938 orders made in 1896, in the matter of the charities in London and the Home Counties, with the following results: 208 orders were made in the matter of 109 charities being wholly educational in their objects; 336 orders were made in the matter of 110 charities being partly educational in their objects; 394 orders were made in the matter of 337 charities being wholly non-educational in their objects. It is to be observed that many of the orders made in the matter of an educational charity are made for purposes which are not incident to its special educational character, but are common to all charitable trusts, educational as well as non-educational.

LONDON WATER SUPPLY.

MR. PICKERSGILL: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board, what steps, if any, he has taken under the powers conferred on the Board by the Metropolis Water Act, 1899, to render the supplies of the different companies mutually available in case of emergency, and especially to protect the East End of London against the sufferings and inconvenience experienced in former years.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. CHAPLIN, Lincolnshire, Sleaford): Communications have been effected between the mains of the Southwark and Vauxhall and the East London Companies, and between the Grand Junction, the West Middlesex, and the New River Companies. The New River Company is also in communication with the East London Company, and the Kent Company is laying a main to communicate with the Southwark and Vaux-

hall Company. The East London Company has since the middle of June been receiving water from the New River and the Southwark and Vauxhall Companies. According to our latest information there was considerably over a thousand million gallons in the reservoirs of the East London Company, and I see no reason to doubt that the measures taken will be effectual to meet the needs of East London during the present summer.

FINE OR IMPRISONMENT RULES IN SCOTLAND.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the rules provided for under the Fine or Imprisonment (Scotland and Ireland) Act, 1899, and the framing of which define the coming into operation of the Act, have yet been framed; and, if not, when they may be expected to be ready.

***THE LORD ADVOCATE** (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): As the hon. Member is aware, the Act referred to only received the Royal assent on the 13th instant, it cannot, therefore, come into operation so far as Scotland is concerned until next session, as the rules thereunder do not come into force until they have lain forty days before Parliament.

TEMPO POLICE CASES.

MR. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland is he aware that at the Lisbellaw Petty Sessions, on the 19th of May last, a number of persons were charged by the Tempo police with drunkenness and other offences, and convicted; that expenses in each of the cases were claimed by the police for car hire, and granted, notwithstanding that Tempo is within four miles of Lisbellaw; and the police declined to give any account of the sums granted; can he state the amount of costs allowed in these Tempo cases for the quarter ending 30th June, 1899; and whether magistrates at Petty Sessions have power to grant extra expenses to police within a shorter distance than eight miles from Petty Sessions Court.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The facts are as stated in the first paragraph, except that the distance

between Tempo and Lisbellaw is five and a half statute miles, and that it is not the fact that the police were asked to render an account of the sums granted. The amount of the costs so allowed the Tempo police for the quarter ended the 30th June, 1899, was 14s. Under Section 22, Sub-section 9, of the Petty Sessions Act, 1851, the magistrates are authorised to award costs up to 20s. in each case, irrespective of distance.

CONVICTION FOR ILLEGAL FISHING IN IRELAND.

SIR J. COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that on the 5th May last two men were convicted at Killorglin Petty Sessions for illegal fishing with a fixed net on the 1st April at Dooks, and were fined £50 each by the magistrates, being the minimum statutory penalty for this offence, stating at the same time that if the men memorialised for a reduction of the penalty, the Bench would recommend the fine being reduced to five pounds each; will he explain why the Lord Lieutenant, without consulting or referring to the Bench of Magistrates, let the men off paying any fine at all, with the result that the Board of Conservators are out of pocket to the extent of £2 10s. expenses of prosecution, while the convicted culprits get off scot-free; and whether the Irish Government are aware that the local inspector of the Board of Conservators has since been stoned, that the law-breakers are triumphant at the opinion of the Bench of Magistrates being thus ignored, and that the officials engaged in maintaining the public interests and public rights, under statutory authority, are correspondingly discouraged and discredited.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The facts are as stated in the first paragraph of the question. The Lord Lieutenant in remitting the penalties was not exercising any prerogative of mercy on the merits. A legal doubt exists as to whether magistrates have a summary jurisdiction to impose the penalties provided by the 16th Section of 32 & 33 Vict. c. 92, the enactment under which the proceedings were taken, and his Excellency did not feel himself at liberty to disregard the advice given on the subject by a succession of Law Officers of the Crown which had been acted on in all similar cases. The Lord

Lieutenant recognises the importance of having an authoritative pronouncement on the legal point at issue. He is advised that this can best be secured if the magistrates at Killorglin Petty Sessions, or any other Petty Sessions before whom a charge shall be brought under the Statute quoted, will act on the opinion of the Law Officers referred to, and formally dismiss the case for want of jurisdiction. A case could then be stated at the instance of the prosecution and the question of jurisdiction determined by a decision of the superior court.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION IN IRELAND.

MR. MACALEESE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Irish Local Government Board would consider during the recess how far the defects of the present sanitary administration in Ireland might be remedied by the conversion of the present consulting sanitary officers into superintendent officers for their respective unions, or by the appointment of others in their places, thus securing that unity, &c. of medical administration, the want of which suggested the appointment of county officers of health; whether he is aware that the Dublin medical press, as well as many medical officers, have from time to time suggested the necessity for a return to the former order of things; and whether, in the appointment of future medical inspectors, he would consider the desirability of appointing men with a recognised position in their profession, and with that knowledge of hospital work which can alone be derived from connection with the very poor law hospitals which they would be called on to inspect.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: With reference to the first and second paragraphs, the question of the appointment of consulting sanitary officers and medical superintendent officers of health has been engaging the attention of the Local Government Board for some time. As regards the third paragraph, I am not aware that the desirability of appointing men with a recognised position in their profession to these posts has ever been ignored.

NATIONALISATION OF ALIENS.

MR. NUSSEY (Pontefract): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury

whether he can see his way by legislation next session to reduce the period of residence necessary for the nationalisation of aliens in the case of those who have been British-born citizens, but who have lost their citizenship in consequence of their having been naturalised in a foreign country.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I have to say that the question to which the hon. Member refers is under the consideration of a Departmental Committee at the present time, and until it has reported I can give no further reply.

TROOPS FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

MR. J. M. MACLEAN (Cardiff): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Imperial and Indian Governments have, as stated in a Reuter's telegram from Simla, made preliminary arrangements for the despatch of a force of 10,000 men from India for service in South Africa in the event of hostilities breaking out there; whether Her Majesty's Government have also received offers of military aid against the South African Republic from the Federated Malay States in Indo-China and from Houssa volunteers in West Africa; and whether the Government intend, in any case, to employ either Indian or black troops in a war against white men in South Africa.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have to say that if the unhappy event to which the hon. Member refers should occur there is no intention of using any but white troops.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): The right hon. Gentleman suggested yesterday that he would make some statement as to the business, and I trust that in doing so he will indicate the business for the rest of the session, and which Bills are to be proceeded with if possible.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I had not contemplated making a statement with regard to the rest of the session, nor as far as I remember are any important modifications required in the original programme of business which I submitted to the House. We are making fair progress, and I do not think there are any outstanding ques-

tions which require any change in our views. I propose on Monday to take the Second Reading of the Colonial Loans Fund Bill, the Report of the Military Works Bill, the Committee stage of the Public Works Loans Bill, and the Resolution for the new Judge. After that we propose to take the Third Reading of the Telephones Bill, and Supply. I should say, with regard to Bills which it will be proper for the Government to star, that I have been making such inquiries as I can into the matter, and I understand that with regard to the following Bills there is no opposition which would render it improper to take that course—the Shop Assistants Bill and the Summary Jurisdiction Bill. They are in a different condition from the other Bills, and I cannot imagine any objection to them. As to Bills not yet gone to the Lords, or, at all events, not yet passed this House, there are the Baths and Washhouses Bill, the Lincolnshire Coroners Bill, the Commons and Open Spaces Bill, Marriages Validity (No. 2) Bill, Manchester Canonries Bill, Tancred's Charities Bill, and the Parliamentary Deposits Bill. I understand that these Bills are not likely to meet with any opposition of an important character. I had hoped to be able to add to the list the Isolation Hospitals (Amendment) Bill, but I gather that this measure would raise an amount of discussion which would make it improper for the Government to take the measure under their wing.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): Will the right hon. Gentleman state what is to be done as to the Charitable Loans (Ireland) Bill? I think it is contrary to all precedent and most inconvenient to keep it on the Paper day after day.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I had hoped that that Bill might meet with favour from hon. Members opposite, but as this is the third time the hon. Member has said that the Bill is highly contentious and likely to lead to debate, the announcement of that view leads me to say that I cannot possibly proceed with the Bill in the course of this session.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeenshire, S.): When will the Board of Education Bill be taken?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I hope to take it on Tuesday.

SEATS FOR SHOPS ASSISTANTS BILL.

Lords Amendments to be considered upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 297.]

SUMMARY JURISDICTION ACT (1879) AMENDMENT BILL.

Lords Amendments to be considered upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 298.]

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 15) BILL.**MENSTONE WATER BILL.**

Without Amendment.

That they have agreed to—

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 14) BILL.**LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (MONEY) BILL.****LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (GENERAL POWERS) BILL****BOOTLE CORPORATION BILL.****DUBLIN CORPORATION (MARKETS) BILL.****DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL.**

With Amendments.

Amendments to—

LEA BRIDGE DISTRICT GAS BILL [H.L.].**SUNDERLAND CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].****LOUGHBOROUGH CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].****MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR BOARD (FINANCE) BILL [H.L.].****PORT TALBOT RAILWAY AND DOCKS BILL [H.L.].****WHITEHAVEN CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].**

Without Amendment.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 14) BILL.

Lords Amendments to be considered upon Monday next.

VOL. LXXV. [FOURTH SERIES.]

SUPPLY [21ST ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.) (Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, Cumberland, Penrith, in the chair.)

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES, 1899-1900.**CLASS II.**

1. Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That a sum, not exceeding £31,405, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, including a Grant in Aid of certain expenses connected with Emigration."

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): I rise with some reluctance, because I had hoped that the Secretary of State for the Colonies would have commenced the debate and made some statement on behalf of the Government as to their present views on the question of South Africa, and communicated to the Committee any additional information which he could communicate with due regard to the public interest. But I understand from the right hon. Gentleman that he is not prepared to take that course, and I cannot find fault with his decision. I remain, however, of the opinion that a plain statement from him would have been the best and safest foundation upon which to build such discussion as is possible on the present occasion. I say "such discussion as is possible," because in the present circumstances it cannot be that we can fully, frankly, and freely express our opinions upon this important subject. It was, of course, inevitable that this Vote should be taken and discussed. The Government have very wisely postponed it till almost the last day that is available, but even now reticence and reserve must be the rule of our Debate. And this for two reasons. First, because the matter is not yet concluded, and we are not in a position to pronounce judgment upon the policy and conduct of Her Majesty's Government; and, secondly, I will not say because the critical state of affairs in South Africa in the course of the last fortnight has

shown great improvement, but on account at least of the critical state of feeling in South Africa generally, every man—every wise man among us, which I hope includes a large proportion—every lover of his country will engage in a debate of this sort with one predominant and overmastering feeling—the desire, namely, to avoid taking any step or uttering any word which can, by any possibility, intensify or embitter race and sectional and party feeling in South Africa, or which may delay or hinder the attainment of that amicable but effective settlement which it is the desire of us all to see accomplished. I am sure that in this view there will be concurrence in every quarter of the House, and when I make an appeal for moderation and for guarded language I trust at least that I shall not myself be found transgressing my own rule. I only wish that a similar appeal could possibly be made with effect, and to any good purpose, to the public press, and here I do not refer solely, or indeed principally, to the newspapers of South Africa—most of which, so far as my acquaintance with them goes, appear to contend with each other in violence of tone, and, organs of opinion as they may be, have rather the appearance of being the organs of some power or powers in the background trying to wrest public opinion to their own advantage; but I refer rather to our familiar press at home, and not only to the modern sensational journals which live in and by excitement, but to certain old, staid, long established newspapers—[Mr. DAVITT:—The *Daily News*, for example]—the writers in which would almost induce me to believe that they regard reason and moderation as a crime, and that they look upon an appeal to force as something in itself actually and specifically desirable. But any appeal to them is, of course, in vain. It behoves us at least in this House to maintain a calm tone, and it will be my endeavour in what I say not to criticise the action or policy of Her Majesty's Government—the time for that has not yet come—and not to make polemical advantage out of any errors that I may imagine I can discover in the history of the proceedings, but merely to submit to the Committee certain considerations which in my judgment ought to guide our conduct in this matter. I would first say that the relations between the Government of the South African Republic and

the Uitlander population constitute a state of affairs which not only works mischief to the interests of those immediately concerned, but which is a constant source of danger to the peace and prosperity of all the States and colonies in South Africa. If I were to search for words in which to convey this opinion I could not find any which more aptly express it than those used by the Secretary of State for the Colonies in his despatch of May 10:—

“Her Majesty's Government cannot remain indifferent to the complaints of her subjects resident in other countries, and if these are found to be justified Her Majesty's Government are entitled to make representations with a view to securing redress. This ordinary right of all Governments is strengthened in the present case by the peculiar relations established by the Conventions between this country and the Transvaal, and also by the fact that the peace and prosperity of the whole of South Africa, including Her Majesty's possessions, may be seriously affected by any circumstances which are calculated to produce discontent and unrest in the South African Republic.”

I adopt that view of our duty to our fellow-countrymen. We are entitled to make representations and to urge them with all the vigour and influence that we can bring to bear. Now, as the Committee are aware, for some time past, by general agreement apparently, the controversy, if I may call it so, has been concentrated upon one point; and as the most effective mode of securing some redress for the grievances of the Uitlander, instead of inquiring into and interfering with particular grounds of complaint, which would lead to unpleasant intermeddling, to say no more, in the domestic affairs of another country, it has seemed better rather to enable the Uitlanders to right their position for themselves, or at least to have an opportunity of claiming redress by becoming citizens of the South African Republic. It is to this since the Bloemfontein Conference, if not from an earlier date, that our efforts have been principally directed. Now, as to the question of admitting the Uitlanders to the franchise, there has been much expression of surprise and of resentment at the stubborn resistance made to the proposal by the burghers, and especially by President Kruger. Sir, that resistance has been gradually wearing

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down under the effect of the representations and expostulations of friendly advisers. But it remains. I cannot avow myself any admirer of misplaced stubbornness wherever I find it. But, at the same time, there is surely no ground whatever for surprise. Who that knows the circumstances of the whole case can be surprised? Lest anyone is inclined to take that view, just consider the history of the Boer people. I will only refer to two facts. The first is the main and originating fact. It was expressly for the purpose of quietly living by themselves in their own way that they trekked into the north and occupied the country which they now possess. It may not have been a very lofty purpose, but it was a distinct and a natural purpose, for it was to preserve their old ways and habits of living undisturbed; and therefore, when an invasion of active and restless men of other ideas than their own, and with modern habits, came upon them, however profitable that may be to the finances of their country, however much their revenue may be increased by the industry and enterprise of those incomers, still they felt themselves ousted from that life—a narrow life it may be—but still the life which they loved. It is not the case, let us bear in mind, of a few or even a considerable number of immigrants coming into a great community and demanding municipal or political rights; what the Boers see in it is that they are being swamped and upset in the life which they prefer by this huge invasion. Therefore it is they regard the admission of these newcomers to their privileges with the greatest suspicion. I do not say that they are wise; on the contrary. Nothing can be wise which is hopeless. It is hopeless for them to resist it, and, therefore, on that low ground alone I cannot say I sympathise with them; but I should be very much astonished if there is any man in this Committee who cannot at least understand how very natural the feeling is. But this is not all. The second fact to which I have referred is an isolated fact, but it is one which has a bearing on the present situation. How can we know how far our difficulties are increased by the deplorable Jameson raid? We in this country have almost forgotten it. We dismiss it from our minds as a stupid, clumsy, criminal blunder, discreditable to our country and our race. We wish to forget, and, therefore, we do

forget it; but if I were a Boer I should not forget it. To the Boer it is the last demonstration to his mind of the necessity on his part for regarding our proceedings and advances with suspicion and distrust. What does it matter to him whether it was directed from this country or not? We suffer from it at all events; in fact, in this case there is an exact inversion of the well-known adage, and we may say *quidquid delirant Achivi plectuntur reges*. The *reges*, the Imperial power and Imperial Government, are punished because of the folly of a few of our countrymen in that distant quarter. Such being the stubbornness of the Boers, and such being their feelings towards us—and I am afraid we must all admit it—how are we to overcome their reluctance to confer this right on our countrymen which we say will enable them to obtain the redress of their grievances? Shall we overcome it by threats? Never. I altogether disbelieve in the efficacy in this case, and in most other cases, of threats and hints of armed force, whether they take the form of open words or newspaper announcements of military preparations. As to war itself, a direct preparation for actual hostilities, I must only repeat here what I have said elsewhere, that from the beginning of this story to the end of it I can see nothing whatever which furnishes a case for armed intervention, and least of all during the recent days or weeks, when we are evidently approaching, if only circumstances continue favourable, a solution of the question. I see war talked of very glibly and very lightly sometimes, and I would say this; that there is no part of the world, and I include in that South Africa, in which from one year to another there may not occur at almost any time the necessity for this country to take up arms in vindication of its essential interests. But a war in South Africa—a war with one of the independent States in South Africa—would be one of the direst calamities that could occur. However speedy and successful might be the issue of that war—and I do not dispute for a moment that it would be successful—it would leave behind it during many after-generations a race feud, not a feud between us and one particular small country, and not, perhaps, increasing much in size in that remote quarter, but a race feud extending through the whole of our colonies and possessions, which would make the good government of that

continent almost impossible. (Cheers.) I state this strongly, but I wish to fortify myself with the opinions of other people. I have heard some strong words expressed on this subject by the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for the Colonies. I am glad to have his authority on the side of what I say. What he said on May 8, 1896, was this:—

“A war in South Africa would be one of the most serious wars that could possibly be waged. It would be a long war, a bitter war, and a costly war, and, as I have pointed out already, it would leave behind it impressions of strife which, I believe, generations would hardly be able to blot out; and to go to war with President Kruger to enforce upon him reforms in the internal affairs of his State, in which Secretaries of State, standing in their place, have repudiated all right of interference, that would be a course of action which would be immoral.”

And again, on another occasion later in the same year in this House, the right hon. Gentleman said:—

“What is the alternative policy which the hon. Member would have put forward? We know what it would be. He would have sent an ultimatum to President Kruger that, unless these reforms, which he would have specified, were granted by a particular day, the British Government would interfere by force, and then he would have come here and he would have asked the House for a vote of credit of £10,000,000 or £20,000,000, it would not matter which particularly, and would send an army of 20,000 men at least to force President Kruger to grant reforms in a State with which we have pledged ourselves repeatedly—not this Government, but previous Governments by the mouths of successive Secretaries of State—that we would have nothing to do. That is his policy. It is not my policy, and it never will be.”

It is a relief to me to find this strong expression from the right hon. Gentleman, with which I entirely concur. How then are we to act in order to influence this obdurate reluctance on the part of the South African Republic Government, and how are we to act with the great object which must be the aim of every statesman in dealing with this question—the object of securing good government and harmony and good feeling between all the races, that, after all, are very nearly akin to each other, in South Africa? Our countrymen included among the Uitlanders allege that they are badly treated; they allege that with reason I think, and our countrymen at the Cape generally, whether of British birth or only of British blood,

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warmly sympathise with them. How can we best help our countrymen and satisfy those who sympathise with them, but who are not directly concerned? Surely the one sovereign way is by bringing to bear upon the question, and especially upon the Transvaal Government, the influence of enlightened Dutch opinion at the Cape. This is the first influence we ought to secure on our side, and it is the chief ally that we should seek; and here again I am pleased to find myself in the closest harmony with the right hon. Gentleman, because in 1896 I find he used these words:—

“We are constantly reminded of the fact that our Dutch fellow citizens are a majority in South Africa, and I think I may say for myself, as for my predecessors, that we are prepared to go as far as Dutch sentiment will support us. It is a very serious thing in matters involving most serious considerations, if we are asked to go in opposition to Dutch sentiment.”

And further, on another day, April 22, in the same year, he said:—

“Now, as the paramount power we cannot be indifferent to a state of things which involves injustice to our own subjects, and which involves danger to the peace of South Africa; but as a Dutch Government ourselves, as well as an English Government, it ought to be our object in endeavouring to secure the redress of those grievances,”

—the Committee will observe how completely this fits the existing situation—

“to carry with us our own Dutch fellow-subjects. Up to a recent date, until recent events, the sympathy of the Dutch population at the Cape, in the Orange Free State, and even of the progressive Dutchmen in the South African Republic—the sympathy of all was with the Imperial Government and the Uitlanders in endeavouring to secure the redress of grievances. But since then there has been a revulsion of feeling from causes that are well known; but I do not despair, in fact, I have the confident hope, that we shall be able to restore the situation as it was before the invasion of the Transvaal, and to have at our backs the sympathy and support of the Dutch population in South Africa; and if we have that, the nation, the united nation which that will constitute, will be a nation which no power in Africa can resist.”

I have ventured to make these quotations, because, as I have said, they are much more strongly and effectively expressed than I could express them by any words. I could use, and because I am sure that we are all glad to know that it

is the present Secretary of State for the Colonies who has given expression to those feelings and opinions. Now, as there is at present a Ministry in power at the Cape which relies mainly for support on the Dutch people, what more natural than that we should use the good offices of the statesman who is at the head of it, Mr. Schreiner? This is precisely what has happened with such remarkably good effect. In my opinion the thanks of the whole Empire are due to Mr. Schreiner and to Mr. Hofmeyr (who does not occupy any official position), and to the others who acted with them, for the part that they have taken in securing concessions at Pretoria. I am glad to see that Sir Alfred Milner, in the last Blue Book which has been furnished to us, on one or two occasions refers to this action on the part of the Cape Premier in language which leaves no doubt that it was all undertaken with his thorough consent. In a telegram of June 11 relating a conversation he held with Mr. Schreiner, he said :

"I told him that these were points of first-rate importance and not of detail, and that since, after all, he seemed to agree with me more than with the President of the South African Republic, he had better address his advice to the latter and not to Her Majesty's Government."

Here we have it in evidence that he was encouraged, and very properly encouraged in every possible way, to address himself to the Government of the South African Republic. Now, what are the limits within which the discussion on the immediate question of the franchise has now been brought? The limits, within which a solution of the question can best be found are most admirably stated by Sir Alfred Milner in his account of the Bloemfontein Conference which is in the second Blue Book. I will read a few words :

"In the first place," he says, "President Kruger objected that to grant the franchise to any large number of aliens would immediately result in the out-voting of the old burghers."

That was what I was speaking of a short time ago.

"I agreed," says Sir Alfred Milner, "that this would be unreasonable, but endeavoured to explain to him that it would not result from any proposal that I should make."

And further on he proceeds to lay down as it were, the maximum and the minimum :

"I had to bear in mind," he said, in proposing his scheme to the President, "on the one hand, the prejudices of the old burghers and the necessity of convincing them that they would not be swamped by the newcomers; and, on the other hand, the uselessness of proposing anything which would be rejected by the Uitlanders as totally insufficient, and would not bring them on the side of the State, throwing in their lot with it, and working in future with the old burghers as one people."

There could not be a more exact and logical description of the problem that has to be solved; these are the two limits within which the solution is to be found—it must satisfy both of these conditions. It is most natural, and, indeed, most necessary, on the part of the Uitlanders that it should be insisted on their behalf that the admission to the franchise should be made retrospective, because obviously, if a long term of years had to be served and lived through before admission was possible, any redress or improvement of the present state of things would be put off for a long time. But then, on the other hand, cannot we understand the reluctance on the part of the Burgher Government to admit suddenly to the franchise a large number of men of whom they know nothing and who could come forward and say they had lived so many years within the bounds of their territory? Why are they so reluctant? I believe it is not so much on the question of admission to the Volksraad as on the question of the election of President. In the election of President every man who is a citizen votes as in a *plébiscite*, and, therefore, one can easily see—and this was the point Sir Alfred Milner at once admitted as perfectly reasonable—one can see what a swamping it would be of the present voters if a large number of new voters were suddenly brought in. But now we come to a curious difficulty—the question of the number. It is a most extraordinary thing that no one appears to have formed any accurate conception of the numbers involved, not even of the number who, under any system you like to take, would be eligible. The right hon. Gentleman told us very frankly the different conjectures that had been formed, but they were only conjectures. But there is another point beyond that which

interests and puzzles me a good deal—there is a doubt as to the number of those who would be eligible, and of the eligible how many would choose to accept. Then we come to another element which cannot be estimated, because it depends upon individual principles and personal disposition. It has seemed to me from the first of this question to be one of the most strange circumstances that we could conceive that, originally, an idea—a rough idea—should be entertained in some sources of instruction in this country, that we should go to war in order to hurry our own fellow-citizens into another citizenship. To facilitate their getting rid of their British citizenship as fast as possible in order to become citizens of the South African Republic is to me a most comical idea. Most people in this country were under the impression, so far as I could see, that the Transvaal was very like a county in England, that it was as if a man who was registered as an elector in Kent went to live in Yorkshire, and in a certain interval claimed to be admitted to the franchise there. But this is another case. The first thing a man has to do is to abjure his British citizenship, to discard it altogether, and to assume another. In the second place, if he wishes to revert to his original citizenship, he will have to go through all the forms—the somewhat tedious forms—of regaining the citizenship he renounced. And now, not knowing the number, having no estimate of what the number would be, the question reduces itself, not to whether they should be admitted or not, but to whether the retrospective term should be five or seven years. Of course I quite admit, as the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for the Colonies has said, that if a law is made stating a certain number of years, and it is then hampered by other conditions and qualifications—if, as was said yesterday, what is given with one hand is taken away with another—that, indeed, would be another matter. But when it comes to a question of five years or seven years, and we are told that there is a danger of the rupture of friendly relations on the ground of the difference between five years and seven years, I look into the matter a little and try to find out what those on the spot really think. I was struck yesterday on reading the Blue Book which was put into our hands to find that there was a great meeting at

Johannesburg to protest against the recent law. Amongst other things, we are told that a letter from Mr. Wessels was read and created great sensation. Mr. Wessels, whose name is quite familiar, strongly supports the Uitlanders' demands, and repudiates the whole proposals of the President. He lays down the condition that "nothing short of a full franchise after a certain term of years can allay the unrest and satisfy the Uitlanders' sentiment." He adds, "The term of years should not be an impracticable term—five, six, or seven years at the utmost." This man, whose letter created such a sensation amongst those present at the meeting as being such an admirable statement from their point of view, actually accepts a term of seven years as not an impossible solution of the difficulty. I hope it may be less than seven years, but, at the same time, surely I have shown that there is no case, I will not say for armed intervention, but even for the threat of war. That being the condition of affairs, why should we not hope, and hope with some confidence, that the comparatively small differences which now remain will, with patience, disappear? I am glad to recognise that yesterday the First Lord of the Treasury, who appeared at a convivial gathering in the middle of the day, made a speech of great vivacity. In the middle of it he introduced and discharged a certain number of fireworks, greatly to the advantage of the hilarious character, and no doubt to the satisfaction, of the meeting. They were received with great applause; but when he came towards the end of his speech the right hon. Gentleman came down to solid ground, as we might expect of him—the solid ground of good sense and of kindly hope. The sole desire of every man amongst us must be that things may be placed on such a footing that causes of discord may soon disappear, and that not only throughout our own colonies, but even in what may seem the unpromising soil of the Transvaal itself, we may find, as time rolls on, the Dutchmen and the Britishers more and more contented, more and more friendly, and co-operating in building up the prosperity of the great community of which in their different States they are a part. Have we no instances where a similar result has followed from our governing power, from our governing protection, in other parts of the world? What had we in Canada?

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Two races not nearly so akin as those in South Africa, peoples separated by religion as well as by race, and in many ways unlikely to come together; and yet not by force nor by threats, not by fomenting jealousies, not by regarding the interests of individuals or of sections, but by just dealing and patience we have obliterated the difficulties and differences that separated them. Why should we have such little faith as to doubt that in South Africa a friendly spirit and prudent action, guided and governed by large-minded statesmanship, will achieve a triumph more conspicuous still?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): The right hon. Gentleman commenced his observations by regretting that I had not seen it possible to commence this Debate by an opening statement, or what he called a plain statement of the views of the Government. Sir, I certainly thought that was undesirable, because the House is already in possession of the views and policy of the Government in the Blue Books which have been presented, and it seemed to me that it would be more respectful to the House, and more convenient to the course of the Debate, that I should wait and see whether that policy was to be attacked, and, if it was to be attacked, whether it was to be attacked openly, or whether there was to be an attempt to undermine it. With a great deal of what the right hon. Gentleman has said I am able to agree, and I agree with nothing more than his wish that during the course of this Debate nothing should be said which would embitter race feeling, nothing which under any circumstances could endanger a peaceful settlement, or delay an effective one. And I gladly recognise that the right hon. Gentleman has doubtless been animated by a desire to carry out this principle. I cannot altogether congratulate him upon his success. I cannot think that some of the observations he made will conduce in any way to a friendly settlement of the difficulty; they are, I am bound to admit, rather calculated to embarrass the action of Her Majesty's Government. The right hon. Gentleman

commenced by pointing out what it is of the utmost importance the House should bear in mind—the danger of the situation. It is with the general situation we have to deal, and not with particular incidents. The question we have to settle is not a new question by any means. It has engaged the attention and caused anxiety to successive Governments ever since the retrocession of the Transvaal was made. Therefore it is with an old question we have to deal, and one which has been in existence at least fifteen years, although it has now been brought to a head by certain occurrences in the Transvaal, and by a petition from a very large number of British subjects which has been sent to and received by the Queen. Let me say in passing—as I must anticipate a little the criticism which may yet be forthcoming—that, in my judgment, there is no doubt whatever as to the genuineness of this petition. I think that any impartial person who reads the Blue Book and the affidavits of the persons who collected the signatures and the statements of men like Mr. White, who are of undoubted respectability, will not hesitate to accept this petition, although I would not ask them to accept every individual signature, but still to accept it as generally and accurately setting forth the views of the Uitlanders. Nobody, I imagine, or nobody of any representative importance, is going at this time of day to deny that the grievances stated in this petition are serious grievances. Even if there had been no petition at all, the question would still have arisen whether the acknowledged grievances of British subjects did or did not deserve the attention of the Government. It is true I have seen efforts made to minimise these grievances, to deny them by picking them out one by one, and by fanciful analogies endeavouring to depreciate their importance. But their cumulative effect is undoubted, and I confess I should very much like some of those gentlemen who think the kind of atmosphere in which British subjects in the Transvaal are now compelled to live is an agreeable one for freeborn Englishmen—I cannot but wish they would spend their holidays at Pretoria, and I daresay they would return wiser and sadder men. But the Government have made an independent investigation, with the facts at their disposal, of the complaints of the Uit-

landers. They have come to the opinion that they are well founded, and under these circumstances I do not intend to dwell upon them at any length. I am really happy, on this point, to rest myself on the statement of the right hon. Gentleman opposite made at Ilford the other day. He said—

“It can hardly be questioned in any quarter that many of the complaints of the Uitlanders are well founded. They have no municipal government, police protection, organised maintenance of order, or the even-handed administration of justice, which, in all civilised communities, are regarded as the very elements of civil rights and liberty.”

In that list, which is ample even if taken by itself, the right hon. Gentleman did not include the absolute loss of any political right whatever, the fact that a community, which is a majority in numbers, which finds at least nine-tenths of the whole taxation of the country, has not even a single seat in, or a single vote for, the governing body of the colony. The view thus put forward, and with which I agree, has received confirmation from all parts of the world. I have had occasion to study the foreign Press, and I find that, equally with the home Press, it is agreed that the grievances of the Uitlanders are of a character which Her Majesty's Government cannot ignore. I take one quotation which is a good illustration of the general tone of these remarks, which are more or less friendly according to our relations with the country they represent. This is from the *Pester Lloyd*, which is recognised as an influential organ of public opinion in Austria and Germany, and being published in a neutral State may be considered to be impartial:—

“No great Power can tolerate such treatment of its subjects as the British Uitlanders endure in the Transvaal. If England does so, her predominance in South Africa will be destroyed.”

I do not confine myself to opinions in this country or in the foreign Press. The Afrikaners, the great party represented by Mr. Hofmeyr and Mr. Schreiner, have shown by their action and speeches, and in many cases also by signing petitions, that they also sympathise with the grievances of their British fellow-citizens. I go one step further and say that even in the Transvaal itself

there is a progressive party which does not share the prejudices of President Kruger and the majority of his supporters. Therefore I think I am justified in starting, at any rate, with the fact that these grievances are on all hands admitted, and the efforts which have been made to cast ridicule upon them in certain quarters in this House, and certain organs in the press outside, are not worthy of serious attention. But I do not want to lay stress on individual grievances. I began by agreeing with the right hon. Gentleman that the danger lies in the situation. No doubt such cases as the murder of the man Edgar, the general misconduct of the police, the subversive of the courts of justice, the brutal and outrageous treatment of respectable Englishmen and coloured British subjects from the Mauritius and other colonies, are not to be lightly spoken of. They are grievances the continued existence of which would not be tolerated in any other country but the Transvaal, even for the length of time with which we have borne with them patiently. But if these grievances were isolated, and could be considered accidental; if when they are proved we could be sure of prompt and ready redress in answer to friendly remonstrances, I do not say any great importance would be attached to them or that they themselves would constitute a serious situation. What is serious is that these grievances are the result of a settled policy which has been in existence and pursued with the persistency of the Boer ever since the Convention of 1884 was signed. For fifteen years the Boer oligarchy—it is ridiculous to speak of it as a republic or democratic country, for at the present time it is an oligarchical Government—the efforts of that Government have been directed for the past fifteen years, contrary altogether to the spirit of the Convention, and in many cases, I believe, to the letter of the Convention, to place the Uitlanders, who are mainly British subjects, in a position of distinct and definite inferiority to the Boer inhabitants of the Transvaal. Such a policy would, I think, be irritating anywhere, but in the Transvaal such a policy is not only irritating to individuals but dangerous to Imperial interests. In the fifteen years of which I have already spoken we have been five times brought to a crisis under different Governments, and once such a state of things has provoked an in-

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insurrection. The right hon. Gentleman referred once more to the raid and to the fact that the raid has been disastrous to the cause of reform in the Transvaal. But in referring to the raid let it be recollected that, at all events, the insurrection and discontent in Johannesburg were the consequence of previous misgovernment. I have never sympathised with the raid, but I am not ashamed to say that I think those who attempted to make and did make an unsuccessful insurrection at Johannesburg had better justification for rising than is frequently afforded to those who are called rebels in other countries. But all this constant subordination and subjection of British subjects in the Transvaal to the ruling race endangers our position as the paramount Power in South Africa, and is also a constant menace to the peace and prosperity of the whole of the country. Worse than all, it has created the race antagonism of which the right hon. Gentleman speaks. The right hon. Gentleman has quoted scattered expressions of mine delivered in this House. But he did not mention that they were made shortly after the raid, and I think he will agree with me that, whatever weight may be attached to them, there must be remembered the time at which they were made and the grievances particularly to which they referred, and it would not be right to distort them into a permanent statement of policy, no matter what might have happened since. I agree with the right hon. Gentleman that differences of opinion, the sentiment of race, and the antagonism of race, which prevail in South Africa constitute the most dangerous feature of the situation. He seems to imagine it would be the result of a war. I do not choose to contemplate war. But I say that if it occurred after a war it would not be in consequence of the war, because it is there now. The race antagonism exists at the present time in the strongest possible form. (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN shook his head.) The right hon. Gentleman shakes his head. Let him consult his colleague the right hon. Member for South Aberdeen, who went there, and with his usual acumen and foresight gave an admirable and interesting account of the situation as he found it, and even then he found that the sight of this perpetual struggle was provoking race antagonism and animosity. Whence does this race antagonism arise?

It does not arise in the Orange Free State. There British subjects have no cause of complaint. They live side by side with their Dutch neighbours in perfect content and harmony. They take part in the government, and altogether they are entirely content with their situation. It does not arise with the Dutch in Cape Colony. They have absolutely no grievance. They are in a position of entire equality with their fellow subjects. It arises entirely in the Transvaal. The source of poison is there, and, being there, it cannot be prevented from spreading across the border into adjoining colonies, and the whole of this perpetual danger—which has become an urgent danger—the danger of this infection in Cape Colony and ill feeling in the Orange Free State is due to the action of the Transvaal Government. We cannot treat the Transvaal as if it were an island in the Atlantic. Just consider the extraordinary position of these people. Here is a country, mainly inhabited by British subjects, surrounded almost for its entire circumference by British colonies, whose foreign relations are under the control of the British Government, and yet where British subjects are placed in a position of humiliating inferiority, where they are subject to injury, and even to outrage, and where the friendly remonstrances of the suzerain Power are treated with contempt. What is the natural and the necessary result of this policy? This matter is sometimes discussed as if it were a question of some petty reform—the right hon. Gentleman has tried to represent it as a matter of two years' difference in the qualification for the franchise. It is nothing of the kind. It is the power and authority of the British Empire. It is the position of Great Britain in South Africa. It is the question of our predominance and how it is to be interpreted, and it is the question of peace throughout the whole of South Africa. I have spoken of the effect upon the adjacent colonies of this continual controversy, this bitter controversy, which goes on in the Transvaal. Has the right hon. Gentleman considered—I do not mean to dwell upon this point, but I must mention it—what effect it has and is likely to have upon the attitude of the natives, for many millions of whom we are responsible, who, owing entirely to our prestige and influence, remain quiet and peaceable,

although they form a majority of the inhabitants in South Africa? They see this contest going on. They see that that country by which they were defeated, and which presumes to govern them, is treated with scant courtesy by another State, and they begin to think that the strength is on the other side, and our influence is weakened over them, our prestige is seriously impaired, and a great danger—I speak with all sense of responsibility—is thereby incurred. That the position, which I have explained lowers our prestige in the sight of all our colonies and dependencies, and in the eyes of every foreign nation, goes without saying. But we need not go outside South Africa to see how serious the matter is, and how absolutely necessary it is that it should come to a head and be satisfactorily settled. The nature of the position is recognised everywhere, I think, but on the benches opposite. It is recognised throughout the Empire, as is proved and emphasised by the offers of assistance from Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, Canada, West Africa, and the Malay States. I hope we may never be called upon to accept these offers, or even seriously to consider them; but if this question is happily disposed of it will always be a matter of satisfaction that in any time of difficulty and trial this country may count on the loyal and active support of its colonies.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): The British Empire against 30,000 farmers.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I do not know that the number of farmers inhabiting the Transvaal has anything whatever to do with the justice and right of any cause of difference between us. I say it has been approved by the action of our colonies. It is approved also by the comments of the foreign Press, which are generally hostile, and by the much more friendly sentiments which we read in the columns of the Press of the United States of America. I have endeavoured to lay the whole case before the House, in order that its importance may be understood. I think that if this state of things were to be allowed indefinitely to continue, it might cause us in the future many wars, and be the prelude to something like a national disaster. What

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is at stake, then, is our position in South Africa. It is not a question of dynamite, it is not a question even of personal outrage; but it is a question of our position as the predominant Power in a country which includes also the most important strategic post in the Empire. We are told that in this case we have no right to interfere. It is said that the state of things which has been created is not a breach of the Convention. I think there is a good deal of confusion as to our position with regard to the Convention. The Conventions extend our right of interference; they do not limit it. Even if there were no Conventions at all, we have the inherent right of every civilised State to protect its fellow-subjects when they appeal for protection. And upon that I should like to quote a passage from Mr. Gladstone, who was not likely to err in over-estimating our rights in such a matter. He said in the House of Commons in 1882—

“Wherever your subjects go, if they are in pursuit of objects not unlawful, you are under moral obligations towards them which you cannot possibly forget or ignore, and their objects being lawful, you afford them all the protection which your power enables you to give.”

But that being our general right, we have a particular right under the Conventions. The Conventions have been broken, as we contend, on many occasions—in the case of dynamite monopoly, in the case of other monopolies of a similar character, in the case of the war tax which it was sought to levy upon aliens, and which discriminated injuriously to them as against the burghers, and in the case of the treatment of Indian and other British subjects. But it is not only that the Convention has been broken. It has been constantly evaded, or attempted to be evaded, in the matter, for instance, of our control over treaties, with regard to the general incidence of taxation, which according to the letter of the Convention should be equal as between burghers and aliens, in regard to the administration of the Press Law, and in regard to the Convention with the Swazis. And all these continual—I will not call them breaches, for I do not think they go so far as that, but all these continual evasions of the Convention have naturally given rise to the suspicion that there is a deliberate attempt to get out

of the Convention altogether and to render it of no importance. It has been broken in the spirit more than it has been broken in the letter. The whole spirit of the Convention is the preservation of equality as between all the white inhabitants of the Transvaal, and the whole policy of the Transvaal has been to promote a position of inferiority on the part of certain classes. There is something even more striking than that. The Conventions were, of course, the result of a previous conference. At that conference definite promises were made which make it impossible to doubt with what object the Convention was signed. On May 10th, 1881, at a conference between representatives of Her Majesty and representatives of the Transvaal the President, Sir Hercules Robinson, asked this question:—

“Before annexation, had British subjects complete freedom of trade throughout the Transvaal? Were they on the same footing as citizens of the Transvaal?”

“Mr. Kruger replied: They were on the same footing as the burghers. There was not the slightest difference in accordance with the Sand River Convention.

“Sir Hercules Robinson: I presume you will not object to that continuing?”

“Mr. Kruger: No. There will be equal protection for everybody.

“Sir Evelyn Wood: And equal privileges?”

“Mr. Kruger: We make no difference so far as burgher rights are concerned. There may, perhaps, be some slight difference in the case of a young person who has just come into the country.”

Now, there is a distinct promise given by the man who is now President of the Transvaal State that, so far as burgher rights were concerned, they made and would make no difference whatever between burghers and those who came in. The root of the difficulty which I have been describing lies in the fact that this promise has not been kept, and that not only has there been no approach to the equality which was supposed to be guaranteed by the Convention, but that every act of the Transvaal Government has tended to make that inferiority more marked and more offensive. If, therefore, we are asked by what right we claim to interfere in what are admitted to be the internal affairs of the Transvaal, my answer is—in the first place, because we have the rights of every civilised Power

to protect their own subjects; in the second place, because we have special rights as suzerain Power; in the third place, because the Conventions have been broken both in the letter and in the spirit; and in the fourth place, because the promises upon which the Conventions themselves were based have not been kept. That being our position, what may we rightly claim? In my opinion, in accordance with equity, and in accordance with international law, we might claim that the Transvaal Government should put matters back to where they were in 1884. All this legislation which has been gradually imposed, and which has tended to restrict and impair the rights of the Uitlanders, and which has increased and created inequality between them and the burghers—all that should be swept away. In my opinion, we have an absolute moral right to make that demand. And, of course, if it be impossible for us to come to terms; if the Transvaal, of its own accord, does not meet the very moderate suggestions that have been made, we are not prohibited by anything that has hitherto been asked from putting in the whole of our claim. But we have adopted the view of Sir Alfred Milner, whose course in this matter has been, indeed, criticised by some persons—I think a very small minority of his fellow-countrymen—but whose action we entirely adopt. Sir Alfred Milner came to the conclusion, in which we think he was right, that the first step to a settlement, the change which would be of the greatest importance, which would relieve the tension, which would probably secure in the long run an absolutely satisfactory settlement, was that the Uitlanders themselves should be given some substantial and immediate representation. We did not ask, and he did not ask, for the franchise for itself; we asked for it only as a means to an end, as the best means, as likely to be the most pacific means, as the means which President Kruger could most easily concede, without loss of dignity or of authority. We asked for it as a means to an end, and that end is to give the Uitlanders such a moderate representation in the Transvaal Parliament as will enable them, not to swamp the burghers, about whom the right hon. Gentleman showed considerable anxiety, but to put forward their views and their grievances, and to secure that public opinion shall be directed to them.

and perhaps, in the long run, to obtain satisfactory and sufficient redress. It was with this object that Sir A. Milner made his proposals. What were those proposals? I beg the Committee not to labour the question of the details of this enfranchisement. The whole point is this—does it give substantial and immediate representation? Whether a particular number of Uitlanders would be enfranchised, whether the qualification is five or seven years' residence, and all the other details, may be put aside if you keep your view fixed on that one object—substantial and immediate representation. Sir A. Milner's proposals would have given immediate and substantial representation. They would have given the Uitlanders at once one-fifth of the First Volksraad. That was the object; and if it had been conceded and taken advantage of, that would have been the result. It is not easy to see how that suggestion can possibly be reduced and still be effective. I do not think that any man in this House will say that less than one-fifth of the representation would be a substantial representation in the First Raad. But at the same time I wish it to be understood that Her Majesty's Government are not wedded pedantically to the terms of this proposal. We are willing to consider any alternatives which may be suggested; but we shall test them all by the same standard—do they give this substantial and immediate representation? It is quite unnecessary to dwell upon the absolutely illusory character of the first two successive proposals made by the President. In each case it took some time to ascertain what they amounted to. But now it is recognised by everybody—and by President Kruger as much as by any one else—that they were entirely inadequate; and they have gone to a limbo from which, I hope, they will never return. But it is to be borne in mind in reference to these proposals, and in reference to the very strong praise which the right hon. Gentlemen opposite gave to the efforts of Mr. Schreiner and Mr. Hofmeyr, that those gentlemen declared each of these absolutely illusory and inadequate proposals, as they appeared, to be adequate and satisfactory. I confess I have always been unable to understand why Mr. Schreiner rushed into print the moment the second proposals were made, in order to assure his constituents that he regarded them as thoroughly satisfactory.

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Why, Sir, he is the representative of the Dutch feeling in the colony. Good gracious! What would the Dutch say if our laws bore any resemblance, however distant, to those proposals of President Kruger's, which, nevertheless, Mr. Schreiner thought were entirely adequate and satisfactory where men of British race were concerned? When these gentlemen, therefore, are quoted as impartial judges, whose assistance on every occasion we are to invite, and by whose counsel we are to be guided, the House must bear in mind that, at all events, as far as past experience goes, they have always been a little premature in accepting proposals made by the Transvaal Government, before ascertaining what their effect would be. Now I come to the latest proposal of President Kruger, and I am glad to get it, because it marks the first advance in this business. I and the Government are desirous of regarding it as an indication of a conciliatory spirit. We recognise that it is a real advance upon previous proposals, and we hope to find in it a basis for a satisfactory settlement. I am not going to insult President Kruger by supposing that this proposal has been made otherwise than in perfect good faith. I assume that it is a *bonâ fide* attempt to meet Her Majesty's Government's representations, and that President Kruger is not going to break the word of promise to the hope and keep it to the ear. The only point is that in regard to this, as in regard to the previous proposals, we have to see by careful examination the probable result, and whether or not it is likely to give immediate and substantial representation. But if it does not; if we are able to show that it does not; then—I will assume that President Kruger must have the same object that we have, and must be seeking, as we are, to relieve the pressure of a great number of questions by allowing the Uitlanders to work out their own salvation by means of separate representation—President Kruger, who is aware of this, and must share our views, will, no doubt, be willing to make such alterations in his latest proposals as will make them effective in this result. The right hon. Gentleman hoped that in this matter there would be no threats. He suggested that there had been threats. He complained of the attitude of the Press. Sir, I heartily join him. I also think that the attitude of a portion of the Press has been

almost the only danger to peace in this business. But I do not think it is the same Press as that which the right hon. Gentleman had in his mind. In my opinion, no responsible person can be properly accused of having used threats up to the present time; and while I feel it would be wrong to say that the difficulty is settled, I do not think the time has come for anything of which the right hon. Gentleman could complain in the nature of either spoken or written language. We regret very much that President Kruger did not see fit to communicate to us the proposals which he was about to submit to the Volksraad, in order that we might have consulted with him in a friendly way, and the matter might not be dealt with without our having an opportunity of saying a single word of comment or criticism. The result has been, of course, that the Act has now passed the Volksraad; and we are told that it is finally fixed. If we were to take that literally it would be an unfortunate statement. But I do not take it literally. The President, in the communication in which he refused to communicate the Act, invited friendly advice. We think that we are justified in those circumstances in appealing to him—as we have done—that a joint inquiry shall be held into these latest proposals with a view of seeing how far they will go in giving that substantial and immediate representation to the alien population which alone can be considered as a basis of satisfactory settlement. If this inquiry is accepted, and when it is concluded, the experts who will be engaged in it will make their report to Her Majesty's Government and to President Kruger, and then we hope that it may be possible for us to come to an agreement. In any case, we shall press for the necessary alterations in order to secure the object which I have stated. I have said that up to the present time we have used no threats. We have issued no ultimatum, and we do not intend to be hurried. I regret most seriously and I sympathise with the state of tension which is caused by delay in the Transvaal itself and in the surrounding colonies. I recognise that many of the inhabitants of that country must be suffering loss and great anxiety in consequence. But at the same time the responsibility of this business is ours, and it is so great a responsibility that we must choose our own time and method for giving effect to the policy

which we have announced. But while we intend to exhaust conciliatory methods and what is called "moral pressure," we have come to the conclusion that the grievances of the Uitlanders are substantial grievances, and that the situation which they have caused is a matter of Imperial concern. We have taken up the cause, and we are bound to see it through. And we shall not rest until a conclusion satisfactory in our opinion at any rate has been reached. I hope, and indeed I anticipate, that our efforts will be successful. But I am bound to take note of some language used by the right hon. Gentleman opposite; and I am bound to say in the plainest way that we will not tie our hands by any pledge as to ulterior measures which may be necessary if—to put an unfortunate and, I hope, most improbable hypothesis—our efforts are unavailing. We have promised to exhaust moral pressure. Yes, Sir, but the right hon. Gentleman does not appear to be satisfied with that. He says, repeating what he had said on a previous occasion, that he thought there should be no threats or hints of war; that there should be even no preparations for war; that there is nothing in what has happened, or in the present state of things, which furnishes a case for armed intervention. I should like to have a clear issue. We do not shrink from it. If that be the opinion of hon. Gentlemen opposite, let them give effect to it. What does it amount to? It amounts to this—that the right hon. Gentleman opposite recognises the grievances, he recognises the danger of the situation, he recognises our right to interfere, and he recognises that we are to use moral pressure; but, he says, "you must accompany that moral pressure by a declaration that under no circumstances will you ever transform it——"

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: On the contrary. I said that in South Africa, as in all parts of the globe where we are concerned, circumstances may arise at any time from year to year which—I used such a slipshod phrase as that—would compel us to take up arms in protection of our interests, or something like that.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I am sure that was what the right hon. Gentleman

intended to say, but I think he will find to-morrow that he accidentally dropped it. In any case, I am very glad that he should make that declaration now. The difference between us is not so great as I thought. I am not certain that there is an issue at all. I should have wished his declaration to be in less general terms. The right hon. Gentleman was positive enough in saying that there was now no cause for intervention. I wish he had been equally clear when the cause for intervention might arise. At all events, I may take this—that the right hon. Gentleman is not, as I supposed, one of those who think that moral pressure can be continued indefinitely. If moral pressure is continued indefinitely without result, it degenerates into nagging; it is ineffective, it is undignified. There must be a point at all events at which moral pressure will be considered by everyone to have been exhausted of all the merit in it, and I am most glad to elicit the statement from the right hon. Gentleman. At least I will put it in this way—I am very glad to have given the right hon. Gentleman the opportunity—

AN HON. MEMBER: He has said it before.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Will the hon. Gentleman wait till I finish my sentence? I say, I am very glad to have given the right hon. Gentleman the opportunity of repeating his statement, because I attach more importance to that statement than to all the rest of his speech. I confess that I was a little afraid the statement made some time ago by Lord Kimberley might be justified on the present occasion also. It was in a letter which he wrote to Lord Selborne (it is published in his memoirs), dated about the time of the retrocession of the Transvaal or a little after: "I entirely agree with you that we ought to maintain a firm attitude." That is the position of the right hon. Gentleman opposite now; he thinks we ought to maintain a firm attitude. "But there is a disposition in so many members of our party to imagine that our Empire can be, and ought to be, maintained without ever resorting to force that I foresee difficulties when it comes to the real pinch." I was terribly afraid that the right hon. Gentle-

man might foresee difficulties when it came to the pinch.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I think that was when the right hon. Gentleman was a member of the Cabinet.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Certainly it was; but I do not myself see the point of that observation. Because I can only say that if the right hon. Gentleman thinks I differed much at that time from Lord Kimberley in believing that there might be difficulties in the Liberal party of that day he is entirely mistaken. I should rejoice to think that now those difficulties are no longer to be faced. Now, there is one other point. We are told that the circumstances of the Transvaal are altogether exceptional, that the difficulty is so complicated by the presence of two races in South Africa that what it might be fitting and right to do in the case of another land against whom we had similar complaints would not be wise or politic in the case of the Transvaal, and that if we go in any way beyond this moral pressure we shall provoke a dangerous agitation among our Dutch fellow subjects. Do not the right hon. Gentleman and his friends see that that is inconsistent with the indignation which some of them express at the suggestion, or the statement, in Sir Alfred Milner's despatch that a particular propaganda would tend to promote disaffection among the Dutch? You cannot at the same time maintain that the Dutch are so loyal that they may be always relied upon to support the Imperial Government, and also say that if anything is done to which they take exception you are promoting a dangerous disaffection. But I believe, myself, that all these fears of Dutch disaffection are exaggerated. It might be quite possible or probable if the Dutch had any cause of grievance themselves; but the Dutch in the Cape Colony have everything which is denied to the British in the Transvaal. In regard to the education of their children, in regard to the administration of justice, in respect of civil and political rights, they stand in precisely the same position of equality; and even more, because at the present moment, while they command only a minority of votes, they actually have in power a Ministry repre-

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senting them and their section. Under these circumstances, I believe it would be impossible for the Dutch colonists in their hearts to disapprove any efforts we may make to extend the equality which they enjoy to the rest of their fellow-subjects in South Africa. In the meantime, I would invite and appeal to the House not to follow the right hon. Gentleman in forgetting that there is another side to this question—that there are British in South Africa, and that the British are in a majority over the whole white population in South Africa. Under these circumstances, their claims also have to be considered. They have great claims, and it would be a fatal mistake to ignore, in deference to the sentiment of the Dutch, who have no grievance whatever, the feeling of the loyal British, or to discourage their faith in the flag which covers them. As to the opinion of the Dutch of Cape Colony and throughout South Africa there cannot be the slightest doubt. To-day, or yesterday, I received intimation of the despatch of a petition signed by 48,000 adult white British subjects in Natal, Cape Colony, and Rhodesia. And I have received from the Government of Natal an account of the way in which the petition had been got up, carefully excluding all Civil servants, all railway officials, and all those who might be said to be in any way prejudiced by their official position. I think it is the most remarkable demonstration of the unanimity of British feeling in the whole of that district which has ever been received in the course of this long controversy. I should like to read to the House a few words of this petition, because it puts admirably in a few sentences what I have been endeavouring to impress on the House:

“Your Majesty’s petitioners, being British subjects resident in the colony of Natal, wish to express their sympathy with those thousands of their fellow-subjects in the Transvaal whose petition your Majesty has been graciously pleased to receive. That men of British origin engaged in an industry of vital concern to the prosperity of all South Africa should labour on sufferance under unjust laws partially administered; that they should contribute nearly the whole of the revenue of the State and have no voice in its disposal; that, while themselves rigorously disarmed, they should have to watch the fruits of their labour being applied to swell the military strength of the class which holds their liberties and even their lives at its disposal; this is a position repugnant to good sentiments. Moreover, it is a source of un-

rest, insecurity, and injury to business throughout your Majesty’s South African possessions. In all these possessions the rule is absolutely equal rights for the Dutch-speaking and English-speaking populations. In the South African Republic alone are the latter denied, not only equal rights, but political rights altogether. From this contrast springs an intense race feeling which tends increasingly to divide and embitter all South Africa.

“Your Majesty’s petitioners feel that it is time that this state of things should be radically reformed, and, while yielding to none in their appreciation of the blessings of peace, are assured that only thus can peace be put on a firm foundation.”

Now, Sir, in conclusion, the situation I have described is undoubtedly a very difficult and painful one, and I will try to sum it up. There is no monopoly on the other side of a desire for peace. I do not know why the right hon. Gentleman should have fallen into that mistake. Some of his friends have spoken and written of me as if I were a most truculent buccaneer with most bloodthirsty prejudices and desires, struggling to impose them upon reluctant colleagues. Well, the extracts which he has quoted from my speeches are, I think, sufficient contradiction. This question was coming to a head in the period of the last Government. Lord Ripon’s despatch in 1894 could not have remained long unanswered, but everything was thrown back by the raid; and no doubt the delay is due to the sense which we all feel of having put ourselves in the wrong. It was felt that that was not the time for us to put exceptional pressure on President Kruger, and that we should be rather wise and perhaps more generous if we waited for him in voluntary goodwill to give us some approach to the reforms we were led to believe he would desire to give. He made promises which I regret have never been fulfilled. During the whole of these three years the attitude of the Colonial Office and the Government has been one of excessive patience and moderation. We have avoided as far as possible every cause of complaint, perhaps too much so. We sometimes, I admit, put aside causes which we sympathised with because we did not wish to provoke a crisis or bring matters prematurely to a head. We have waited in the hope that President Kruger would make some concession; on the contrary, things have gone from bad to worse. In the first Blue Book sent out from the Colonial

Office it is made clear in almost every quarter that legislation since the raid has increased the disabilities of the Uitlander population and put them in a more and more inferior position. Therefore I think it cannot be any longer said with any fairness and without the risk of creating a mischievous misapprehension, that either I myself or any of my colleagues have been at all anxious to press matters forward to a premature conclusion. Sir, no one dreams of acquiring this country which we of our free will retroceded. No one has any wish whatever to interfere with the independence which we have granted; on the contrary, we desire to strengthen this independence. We desire to place it on a firm basis by turning discontented aliens into loyal fellow-citizens of the present Dutch Republic. Our interest is to maintain the freedom and the prosperity of the Transvaal Republic. We want to see it continuing in existence on similar lines to the Orange Free State, protected as to its outside relations and independent as to its internal affairs. But, on the other hand, the condition of our non-interference is that the Government of the Transvaal should accept in principle and make some approach in practice to that equality of condition between the two white races which was intended to be provided by the Convention, and was certainly promised in the interviews and conferences before the Convention was signed. Without this the Transvaal will remain what it is at present—a source of turbulence, disturbance, and danger. Although the situation is an anxious one, I am hopeful for the future. I am hopeful for two reasons. In the first place, because I believe that in spite of speeches and articles, which have been misunderstood, perhaps, and which at all events have been taken by the governing authorities at Pretoria as indicating a greater sympathy with them than I believe to be the case—in spite of this President Kruger has, I believe, come to the conclusion that the Government are in earnest, and that they have the people behind them. I trust under these circumstances to his common-sense. I trust to his present knowledge that reforms are necessary, and I hope we may be able to convince him in any further negotiations and communications that we do not seek to do him or his country any harm; but rather, by the

reforms which we insist upon, to help him to maintain his position and his authority, whilst at the same time securing justice to all the inhabitants of the country. But I am hopeful for a second reason, and that is because I have an absolute conviction that the great mass of the people of this country are prepared to support us, if the necessity should arise, in any measures we may think it necessary to take to secure justice to the British subjects in the Transvaal, and the due observance of the promises and Conventions upon which the independence of the Transvaal has been founded.

SIR W. GURDON (Norfolk, N.): I venture to ask to say a few words on this question, as I have been despatched on missions to the Transvaal by both Conservative and Liberal Governments, and I have, therefore, learnt by experience the good as well as the bad qualities of the Boers. I grant that many of them are uneducated, ignorant, and obstinate, and for that reason the very worst people to be treated with injustice. Under a rough exterior they are sensitive and proud; and while they never forget a kindness, they do not easily forget a wrong. And we have wronged them in times past. At the commencement of the century we acquired the Old Colony by right of conquest; we took it in fair warfare; but it is no wonder that those who had won their country from savage tribes and wild beasts, and had undergone great hardships before they rendered it habitable, should have been unwilling to remain under foreign rule. Some of them emigrated to the Orange territory, which was speedily annexed; but in those days annexation was not the fashion; it was not considered smart as it is now, but on the contrary rather vulgar, and the country was given back with, I believe, the unanimous consent of Parliament, and of the nation, so far as the nation knew or cared anything about it. The Secretary of State for the Colonies alluded to the friendly feeling between the British and Dutch in the Orange Free State, but that country has not the same grievances to look back upon as the Transvaal. Some migrated to Natal, where they found a beautiful, fertile, and well-watered country; but they suffered great hardship before they could settle down in peace. The province in which

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Dingaan's massacre occurred is called Weener, or "Wailing," to this day. After forty years the inevitable annexation followed, and then those who did not wish to remain under British rule trekked northward, and found a vast tract of country, desolated and almost uninhabited after the great raid of the chief Mosekatse. Then, after thirty years more, came the annexation of 1877. Never was a country to which the famous maxim of Lord Melbourne was more applicable: "Can't you let it alone?" If the advice of my right hon. friend the Member for Bodmin had been followed at that time, the Transvaal would have annexed itself in a few years. There were then no restrictions on the franchise; the British residents would gradually have become the majority, and would have voted themselves a British colony. There will be no such vote now; it is simply a question who will be masters in the Republic. There was much talk at the time of Shepstone marching into the Transvaal, with an escort of eight policemen, and hoisting the British flag in the market place of Pretoria. In point of fact, in a country as large as France, only containing about 40,000 inhabitants, there were many who never heard of the annexation until months afterwards. There was, indeed, a sort of vote in the Volksraad, but was that sufficient? What would be said if this Chamber were to vote the annexation of the United Kingdom to France or to Germany, without a *plébiscite*, without even a dissolution? We made great promises; we promised to put down the robber chief Sikukuni; we did not fulfil that promise for more than two years; we promised to call together the Volksraad; we never called it at all. The Government of the day seems to have put aside and forgotten the whole question, as a child forgets its lesson. Our officials have not always understood the Boers; they have not made allowances for a brave and free people, who were attached to the land which they had won so hardly. I have always believed that the secret of the success of our rule in India and the Malay Peninsula lay in the fact that we have never attempted to force our language on the inhabitants. No officer is appointed to India until he has mastered at least two native languages. But in the Transvaal we endeavoured to force our own language on the people, a fact which we now apparently

find it convenient to forget. Successive Governors of the Cape and Natal—Lord Loch, Lord Rosmead, Sir Walter Hutchinson—have done their best to smooth the differences, and not without success. Only three weeks before the unfortunate raid the Prime Minister of Natal and the President of the Transvaal had met at a ceremony connected with Dingaan's Day, and had each spoken hoping that all enmity between the Dutch and the British might be buried and forgotten. I was very glad to hear the Colonial Secretary speak in strong reprobation of the Jameson raid. It was cowardly and treacherous in its inception; cowardly and pusillanimous in its ending. I happened to be in Natal just after the occurrence, and I saw the strong feeling against the raiders which prevailed almost universally. I was speaking to one of the most eminent of the Natal statesman, and I remarked that no respectable savages, such as the Zulus or Swazis, would ever invade a foreign country without sending a declaration of war—a spear or a few bullets. "Ah," said he, "but then the Zulus are gentlemen." And if the raid was treacherous in its beginning, it ended in a most cowardly surrender. I believe it is not generally known that 700 men started from Pitsani; 500 were taken prisoners, 30 or 40 were wounded, and 18 killed, so that 140 men must have melted away on the march—turned round and gone home again. But what would be said of a British regiment which surrendered when only eighteen men were killed, and not one of their own officers? Why, every hon. Gentleman knows that the regiment would be disbanded, its name would be erased from the Army List, every officer would be court-martialled, and the commander would be shot, "*pour encourager les autres*." We admired the generosity and astuteness of President Kruger in handing over the prisoners; it was, no doubt, a wise diplomatic move; but if we take the high moral ground, I am not sure that he ought not to have shot the leaders. We have always ourselves done so on similar occasions. The Colonial Secretary spoke as if the raiders had intended to help the Uitlanders; but I think he will find that the Johannesburgers believe that they would have obtained all they wanted peacefully, had it not been for this ill-timed interference. There is another view of the matter; the influence of the Crown had been steadily

increasing, the influence of the Chartered Company had been waning; and it appears to me that the object of the raiders was to place the interests of the Chartered Company before those of this country. Sir, I acknowledge that the Uitlanders have grievances, but I think that they have been somewhat exaggerated. It is said that the natives have been cruelly treated, and there have undoubtedly been such cases; but I fear that we are not altogether guiltless of the same crime. I have visited almost all Her Majesty's possessions in which there are coloured races, but I cannot remember any one where their treatment is thoroughly satisfactory. The only country in which I have seen the natives treated with true humanity is governed by an Englishman, but is not under British rule; I mean the territory of Sarawak, in Borneo, so admirably administered by Rajah Brooke. No doubt the police force contains many unfit members, but I have heard complaints against the police of other nations. Only the other day there was considerable stir about some newspaper correspondent, who was struck in the eye; but the man who assaulted him was duly prosecuted, and received much the same punishment as would have been awarded in this country. And I must say that I am ashamed to hear of a man calling himself a British subject, who is hit in the eye, and appeals to the police. It is the boast of the South African mining districts that the use of bowie knives and revolvers is almost unknown; but Nature has provided us with means of defence; and there is moreover an excellent weapon in South Africa called a slambok, a whip of hippopotamus hide, with which adequate punishment can be inflicted without risk of life. Then as regards the franchise. What is our position at home? A man may belong to a family which has lived 800 or 1,000 years in England, but he does not enter into the rights of citizenship on becoming of full age. He must be an occupier, and as we most of us become occupiers at Michaelmas he must then wait two years and a quarter before he obtains the franchise. And if he ever moves to another constituency—it may be only a mile, it may be only 100 yards—he loses his citizenship for a twelvemonth; he becomes a helot. He may even become a helot by a mere error. My hon. friend the Member for Norwich was very anxious, on a recent occasion, to

Sir W. Gordon.

vote for me or against me. His opinions do not exactly coincide with mine, but personal friendship would probably have induced him to make his mark opposite my name. But when he arrived at the polling place, burning with desire to record his vote, he found that by a clerical error of the revising barrister he had become a helot, and a helot he will remain until the 1st of January next. I wonder what the Press would have said if an important Member of the Raad, say Mr. Beit, were to become a helot by a clerical error of the Field Cornet? What would be said if President Kruger were to publish such a statement as appears in Sir A. Milner's speech on opening the Cape Parliament? "A Bill will be introduced for restricting the immigration of undesirable aliens." The Colonial Secretary told us the other day that the time required for an alien to obtain a vote in this country varies from five years and five months to six years and five months. It would actually take about a fortnight longer, so that the average time is, as nearly as possible, six years. Is there sufficient ground for complaint in the difference between that term and the proposed seven years in the Transvaal, provided that, as I understand is the case, the law is made retrospective? Moreover, there are very many of the Uitlanders who only come to the Transvaal to make a fortune quickly, to earn high wages for four or five years, who do not wish for the franchise, and are only too glad of an excuse not to be mixed up in politics. Sir, I have ventured to transgress on the time of the House because I feel very deeply on this subject. I believe that the Boer, if not unjustly treated, is a good fellow, an honest fellow, and, as I know, a hospitable fellow. I have heard it said that he is not grateful for the action of this country in 1881; that is not my experience. I believe he fully realises that it would be impossible for him to contend against the vast power of Britain. War in South Africa would be the greatest calamity that could happen to our nation. Of the immediate issue there could be no doubt. The Boers would fight bravely, but they would be crushed by the great force brought against them. But that would not be the end. From that day you must govern South Africa by the sword; you must hold South Africa by the sword. And you cannot hold a nation for ever by the

sword. More than a century ago we lost the fairest colonies that Britain ever possessed. I trust that blunder will never be repeated. We were then under the influence of an autocratic king; we now have a wise and far-seeing sovereign, who understands the advantages of constitutional government and knows the blessings of peace. And I hope that when the issue of this Debate is known, when the words which may be spoken this night are flashed along the telegraph, they will convey to our South African neighbours a message of peace, a message of goodwill, and I would even say, if need be, a message of forbearance.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON (Armagh, N.): No debate which has taken place in the House of Commons will be read with more anxiety all over the Empire of the Queen than this. I recognise two dangers in the present situation. The first is the ignorance of the Dutch population. My experience is entirely opposed to that of the hon. Gentleman who has just sat down. I visited the Transvaal a little over a year ago, and I found amongst the Dutch a firmly-fixed conviction that as they had licked the army of Great Britain in former times, they could repeat the operation whenever it became necessary. The other danger is the division of opinion in this country on the matter. I must say—if I may say so without offence—that a more mischievous speech than that of the Leader of the Opposition I have never heard. If I understood the right hon. Gentleman, his opinion was that we have the right to use as much moral pressure as we please, but must go no farther.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I never said so.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON: Then in that case I do not know what the right hon. Gentleman did say. I venture, however, to say that when he reads his speech to-morrow he will see—and I took his words down at the time—that he distinctly said that we have no right whatever to go beyond moral pressure in dealing with the Transvaal. Of course if the right hon. Gentleman believes, as I do, and as I am confident the great

majority of the House of Commons and the British people believe, that moral pressure to be of any use must, if necessary, be backed up by force, I quite agree with him. Certainly we want to exhaust moral pressure to its utmost, and I believe I am speaking the feeling of the House of Commons, as well as of the British people in South Africa, when I say that we should all deprecate from the bottom of our hearts the necessity of going to war with the South African Republic. I do not believe in the whole House of Commons there is to be found a Jingo of the kind who desires to see prevailing in South Africa a condition of affairs of such a deplorable and far-reaching character. But, at the same time, if we take up the position that in no circumstances are we prepared to back up moral suasion by force, President Kruger would say, "What a fool I was to make so many offers as I have already." I always think that President Kruger and the Sultan of Turkey are the two most successful men of the day. They both accept any amount of advice which they never follow, and they both make any number of promises which they never keep. But it strikes me that hon. Gentlemen opposite, so far from conducing to that peace which we so much desire, will achieve exactly the opposite result. They seem to think that no amount of tyranny on the part of the Transvaal and no amount of injustice would justify this country in exerting the whole force of the Empire to bring about that reign of justice and peace on which alone the fortunes of the Transvaal and South Africa depend. But what caused the present situation?

MR. DILLON: The South African Association, if you want to know.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON: That is not the fact. Why do we meet with this hostile Dutch feeling? The present difficulty is, Majuba Hill coming home to roost. I do not wish to ascribe to Mr. Gladstone's Government, who made that unfortunate surrender, any unpatriotic motives. They said they were, and I believe they were, actuated by feelings of humanity; but I have been given to understand that their feelings of humanity were kept up to the mark by a memorial signed by between eighty and ninety of

their followers to the effect that if they did not make peace they would vote against them. No doubt they expected the surrender to attract the gratitude of the Boer population, but I do not believe that ever happened, either in the case of the individual or the nation. Ever since Majuba all those who have been to South Africa know that we have been sitting in the mud and trying to arrange our difficulties with the Transvaal from that position. Under the guidance of Her Majesty's Government, backed by the overwhelming opinion in the country, we are now at last standing up. What is the attitude we now assume with regard to the Transvaal? I quite sympathise with the feeling of the Boers that they do not want to be swamped by the Uitlander population. If I were a Boer I should object to it myself. But if you read the proposals of Sir Alfred Milner you will see that he himself realises that difficulty, and I believe this House would never consent to try and force President Kruger and his Government into any arrangement which would swamp him and his fellow-countrymen. If you look at the proposals which have been made you will see that they are of the most modest description. My right hon. friend the Secretary of State for the Colonies has admirably expressed his feeling and the feeling of Sir Alfred Milner, and I believe also the feeling of this House, when he said that we must have an immediate and sufficient representation for the Uitlander, and that sufficient representation, I think, amounts to one-fifth of the representatives in the Raad. Surely one-fifth is not an over-representation, and is not likely to swamp the Boer Government, or the representation of the Boer people. There is another reason why we have been for so many years divided from our fellow-subjects in South Africa. It is not a question of the raid; it is not a question of recent years, but it was started immediately after the surrender of Majuba, and that has been the reason why the white races in South Africa have been divided by so clear a cleavage, which has been such a great misfortune to the progress and peace of the country. Immediately after that surrender, when the prestige of England was at its very lowest and that of the Dutch at its very highest, Mr. Hofmeyr and his friends founded what is known as the "Afrikander Bond." That Bond has had more to do with this

cleavage than anything else during the last fifteen years. What is the value of the Afrikander Bond? I happen to be very fortunately circumstanced in having obtained the most accurate copy that can be conceived of the rules and regulations of the Afrikander Bond—in fact it is a copy of Mr. Hofmeyr's own set, so that it is about the most authentic copy in the world. Most people imagine that the Afrikander Bond resembles an ordinary political association such as we have in this country, but there is a very considerable difference. The Afrikander Bond is founded to create in South Africa an Afrikander nationality and to prepare it to become an Afrikander power—that is to say, a Dutch nationality and a Dutch power.

MR. COURTNEY (Cornwall, Bodmin): No.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON: My right hon. friend says "No;" but he does not know anything about it. If he will let me read I will show him that the Afrikander Bond applies to the Dutch, and only nominally to any inhabitants of South Africa. It was created with the view of binding in one solid whole the Dutch population in South Africa, not only with the Cape Colony and Natal, but also in the Transvaal and the Free State. Branches of the Bond were established all over the Transvaal, the Free State, the Cape Colony and Natal. These branches elect district councils, and these district councils ultimately elect a council of three, which has the special duty of carrying out as far as it can the election of members to the Cape Parliament. So that you have in South Africa an organisation which derives its main funds from the Transvaal, choosing and directing the election of members to the Cape Parliament. Therefore, although President Kruger may have been perfectly correct when he said no State funds were devoted to the election of Members to the Cape Parliament, enormous sums are furnished from the Transvaal for that purpose. One remarkable rule of the Afrikander Bond is this: "One object of the Bond is that inter-meddling from outside with the economic concerns of South Africa will be resisted." That would be perfectly fair

Colonel Sanderson.

if it were reciprocated, but in that case why should the Transvaal directly interfere with the Cape Colony by subscribing this money to return Members after their own heart to the Cape Parliament ?

MR. DAVITT (Mayo, S.): You assert it, you do not prove it.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON: The Bond exists in the Transvaal, and sends money through its branches to the Central Committee, whose duty is expressly set forth in these rules as being to see that the right men are returned to Parliament and appointed to the Government offices and the offices of the State. So that you have at present a Parliament at the Cape chosen practically by the Afrikaner Bond. You have the Dutch element in the majority; you have a Dutch Parliament carrying out the laws of the country, chosen and created by this association. When I read these rules and regulations I said, "There is my old friend the National League over again."

MR. DAVITT: Or the Orange Society.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON: No, we do not interfere at all in that way; we have not money enough. My right hon. friend challenged me about the Afrikaner movement being one meant to embrace really the whole population. That is not the object of the Bond. At the end of the rules and regulations there is a description of its objects and aims as set forth by the Chairman of Committees in the Cape Parliament. I will read one paragraph:

"Next, they had learnt that they had a right to send their own representatives to the Parliament of their country, that they had by means of their representatives a voice in the making of those laws to which they as a people had to submit, that they had a feeling of nationality which was extinguished by strangers."

The strangers are the British people. Then he goes on to point out another advantage. He said:

"Our people speak at the present day its own language through its own representatives in the Houses of Parliament."

That is the Dutch language. Was I not perfectly justified in saying that this organisation has had one object, and one only, and that is to create in South Africa a great dominant, powerful, omnipotent, Dutch population and Dutch power? If you asked me whether the Dutch in South Africa are really disloyal to this country, I should say not. I think they are willing to be loyal to this extent: They are quite willing that we should prevent by the power of our Navy and our Army any other country taking possession of their land. They would rather have us as the Suzerain Power than any other. But beyond that their loyalty does not go.

MR. DILLON: What more do you want?

COLONEL SAUNDERSON: I want a great deal more. I want a population that is really loyal to and ready to stand by the Crown whenever called upon. The British population in South Africa are as loyal as any other subjects of the Queen, and that is a great deal more than the native loyalty, and we do not ever see it in hon. Gentlemen opposite.

MR. DAVITT: And never will.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON: A thing which struck me during my visit to South Africa was that the Irish out there, although they preserve the memory of their politics here, and no doubt if they came back many would be Home Rulers, are as loyal to the British connection as I could be. I may, perhaps, illustrate that by saying that at Durban I was entertained by the Irish Society of that town, and the gentleman who proposed my health and was as loyal as I was, had been a member of this House where he used to express views diametrically opposed to those he put forward out there, because when in this House he was by no means an admirer of mine. That is the effect of going to South Africa. Whether a man is Irish, English, Scotch or Welsh, there is one thing at any rate he learns to stick to, and that is the benefit of the British connection.

MR. DAVITT: Because you give him Home Rule.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON: On the other hand, we have the Dutch population whose differences with us are carefully fanned and fostered by the Afrikaner Bond. I must say that of all the remarkable pieces of advice a British statesman has ever given in this House, the most remarkable was the solution of the difficulty proposed by the Leader of the Opposition. As far as I could make out, his only suggestion of policy was that we should ask Mr. Schriener and Mr. Hofmeyr, both Bondmen of the deepest dye, to make a final arrangement with President Kruger, and above all things to avoid any possibility of imagining that we ever intended to back up their advice by force. When this Debate is read in South Africa, the speech of my right hon. friend, the Colonial Secretary, very guarded and very moderate as it was, appealing as it did to all the best instincts that may exist in the mind of President Kruger, will be clearly read and clearly understood by both sides in South Africa. I take it from that speech that Her Majesty's Government intend to leave no stone unturned to exhaust every method to bring about a peaceful solution of the question. In that they have the sympathy of the entire country. But my right hon. friend clearly indicated, and I hope the people of South Africa will understand, that when he and his Government have exhausted every means that can be devised to avoid a rupture with the Transvaal, if that unhappy moment should arise, then, in order to secure common ordinary justice for our fellow-citizens in the Transvaal, all the force of the Empire is at his back, and will be employed. I should like to refer very briefly to the position of the Outlanders. There are two things which stand out in strong relief in the case they make. One is their demand for a fair share in the representation of a country of which they pay nine-tenths of the taxes. That ought to appeal to the Radical Party opposite. The other is that they should receive common ordinary justice. Anyone who has read Sir Alfred Milner's letter, in which he points out that at the present moment they are treated as helots, that their lives and property are not secure, will see that something must be done, and done as speedily as possible, to rectify an intolerable condition of affairs. We do not ask outsiders to interpret the nature and character of the treaties we have made

with the Transvaal. The important point is the view we put upon them, because that is the view we intend to enforce. We believe that those treaties have been absolutely disregarded and set aside, and it is our determination that this opportunity should be seized for making a final and lasting settlement. Weakness at the present moment would be a crime. President Kruger is a very able man, but he made a great mistake when, after the raid, which put us so much in the wrong, he did not make concessions which would have established him in the eyes of this country and of the world. Probably if he had made even less concessions than he is willing to make now this Debate and this agitation would not have been heard of. Instead of that, more and more oppression has been piled on, culminating in the murder of Edgar.

MR. DILLON: The published accounts are not true.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON: They are proved on oath.

MR. DILLON: They are absolutely false.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON: If such a thing had happened in Ireland, what would hon. Members opposite have said? A condition of society which permits such things to be done is one which cannot be endured by British people. We do not allow arbitration, but we may consent to the arbitrament of the opinion of the world. This case has been set before the world, and where has the Transvaal any friends? Germany is now on our side, as also is France. The only country that is not on our side is Mayo, whose representatives sit opposite me. All other civilised parts of the world declare through their Press that our action with regard to the Transvaal is founded on the highest principles of justice, and that in claiming, as we do, justice for our fellow-subjects in South Africa, we are but fulfilling the primary duty of this Parliament and of this Empire.

MR. DILLON: The hon. and gallant Member has alluded to his famous trip to the Transvaal, and has intimated that in

something like three weeks he acquired an intimate knowledge of the character of the Boers. I wonder whether he was familiar with the Dutch language.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON: Can the hon. Member speak Irish?

MR. DILLON: No.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON: Then how does he know the Irish feeling?

MR. DILLON: Because the Irish speak English. I was not aware that it was possible to acquire in three weeks an intimate knowledge of the Dutch character without being possessed of their language. After the speech we have had to-day I am not surprised that it was said that a bigger firebrand had never visited South Africa. His policy is not to settle matters with the Transvaal, but boldly to declare war on the Afrikaner Bond. That was the whole temper of his speech. The Afrikaner Bond was an association organised in a spirit of hostility to this Empire—

COLONEL SAUNDERSON: I never said anything of the kind. I admitted that the Afrikaner Bond was personally at any rate loyal to this country—tolerably loyal.

MR. DILLON: That is not the interpretation that most hon. Members put upon his speech, which was backed up by quotations from a book which was obtained by methods of which it is impossible to discover the exact character. I wish to say a word in reference to a subject to which a gross and shameless amount of importance has been attached in the course of these Debates, viz., the killing of Edgar. The Colonial Secretary used the terrible words which I regard as an outrage on the Transvaal people; he alluded to this as the "murder" of Edgar. It was no murder. That circumstance has been seized hold of and used without scruple to lash this country into fury, and bring us to the verge of war with a people numbering in all 30,000 grown men, against whom the Colonial Secretary is not ashamed to brag that all the forces of the British Empire have rushed to the rescue of the

Mother Country. What are the facts of the killing of Edgar? In the town of Johannesburg, on a certain day last February or March, a drunken brawl arose at midnight between a man named Edgar and two other English Uitlanders, no Boer being concerned in the matter in any way whatever. Edgar was going home more or less full of drink. One of the Uitlanders used an expression towards him of an insolent character, and he struck him such a heavy blow that he fell and lay senseless in the gutter. His comrade rushed up clamouring for the police, and four policemen came to the rescue. He said, "That man has just killed my pal," pointing to Edgar, and he claimed at the hands of the Boer police that they should arrest Edgar. The Boer police had a short consultation as to whether they had legal power to arrest the man, who had retired into a room close at hand. One of the policemen said he did not think it was legal to arrest him. The other Englishman continued to clamour for arrest, whereupon constable Jones put his shoulder to the door and burst it open. Before he did that, they had seen Edgar at the window with a weapon in his hand, threatening them if they came into the room. Upon the sworn testimony of the police, Edgar struck Jones with a heavy loaded stick, and the blood poured down his face and wet the front of his jacket. Edgar raised his stick again to strike Jones, whereupon Jones pulled out his revolver and shot Edgar. I am not going to say that the policeman was justified in doing this, but he was put on his trial. The Uitlanders held a meeting to influence the trial, setting at defiance the advice of the British Agent at Pretoria, and I think it is quite possible that Jones might have been convicted of manslaughter, but no human being would have dreamt of convicting him as a murderer. The passion of the Boers was naturally aroused, and the acquittal of Jones was largely due to this meeting. Is it not a monstrous outrage that a responsible statesman should hurl that unhappy incident at the Transvaal Government, and put it before the people of this country, calling it murder, for the mere purpose of inflaming passion and promoting a war feeling in this country. From that date down to the present moment this incident has been incessantly used by the newspapers of this country to promote

war, and one of their chief weapons has been to falsify the truth in reference to this Edgar case and ask for vengeance. That is why I attach so much importance to this incident. I might allude to much worse cases in Ireland, where I have seen men shot down before my own eyes.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON: Landlords!

MR. DILLON: No, not landlords, but the poor people. The hon. and gallant Member said he found a difficulty in understanding the speech of the Leader of the Opposition; but those of us who sit on this side of the House found no difficulty in understanding it at all, for we listened to it with admiration. What he said was that in all that has occurred down to this hour there is no ground for threats of war or for preparations for war. The right hon. Gentleman never said that nothing that could happen in the future could justify war. No man would be so silly as to say that, let alone a man in such a responsible position as the Leader of the Opposition. The angry comments of some of the hon. Gentlemen opposite show that they felt the weight of the right hon. Gentleman's words when he said that nothing had occurred up to this hour to justify those threats of war. The hon. and gallant Gentleman opposite has described as intolerable the fact that in the Transvaal there is an armed police force in the midst of an unarmed population. I would remind the hon. and gallant Gentleman that this is exactly the position in Ireland at the present moment, where I have seen unarmed men shot down by the armed police. I will now turn to the Blue Books. Some time ago I made a complaint as to the suppression of the despatches from Sir William Butler. The whole of these Blue Books are full of inflammatory and violent despatches from Sir Alfred Milner, and when you search through these Blue Books carefully you will find that they only contain one despatch from Sir William Butler, giving his opinion of the situation. In view of the fact that Sir William Butler has had a great deal more experience in South Africa than Sir Alfred Milner, and was far better acquainted with the nature of the problem with which he had to deal, I think it is a most remarkable fact that

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during all the time when Sir Alfred Milner was over here in consultation with the Colonial Secretary, there is only one despatch in these Blue Books explaining his views. I know there are many short despatches from Mr. Green, of Pretoria, and other quarters. Sir William Butler, in regard to the question of a more vigorous application of the law, said that this might have been influenced by considerations such as those which had been suggested by Mr. Fraser; but in his opinion it would be quite as much within the region of probability to suppose that the attitude of the South African League officials at Johannesburg was responsible for much of the tone and temper adopted towards the Cape boys. And because Sir William Butler had the courage and manliness to make that statement it was instantly suppressed. I notice that in the speech of the Colonial Secretary it is stated that the situation has resulted from the oppression of the Uitlanders by the Transvaal Government. My opinion is that this situation has arisen from the machinations of the association which is known as the South African League. Even the Colonial Secretary himself must admit that it is not right to keep back from the knowledge of the people of this country the opinion of the advisers of the Crown, yet up to the other day this opinion was carefully concealed. On the 8th of July a question was asked in the House as to whether any Minutes of the opinion of the Cape Parliament had been communicated to the Government, and the Colonial Secretary replied that no direct communication had been made. When that statement was telegraphed to South Africa Mr. Schreiner called upon Sir Alfred Milner, and insisted that the Minutes and the opinion of the Cape Government should be immediately made public. A short time afterwards the Colonial Secretary corrected his answer, and said these Minutes had reached him through Sir Alfred Milner. The efforts of the South African League to foment and excite ill-will between the two races was denounced in the Minute to the Colonial Secretary, and while the resolutions and manifestoes of the league are accorded large print, the opinion of Mr. Schreiner is relegated to the appendix in small print. I ask is it not a monstrous thing that throughout all these months, when

passion has been lashed into such a condition, that formal opinion of the Prime Minister of Cape Colony, which contains such an important statement, should have been withheld from the knowledge of the people of this country, and that we should have been left to form our own conclusions from what has appeared in the newspapers? That is the opinion of the Cape Ministry, which is the only body constitutionally entitled to speak on behalf of the people of Cape Colony. That is also the opinion of Sir William Butler, and against that you have only got to set the opinion of the officials of the South African League and Sir Alfred Milner himself, who, whatever may be his qualifications—and about that matter a good deal of difference of opinion exists—has only gone to South Africa quite recently, and is only qualified by the experience which he gained in Egypt, where no constitutional rights whatever exist. To my mind the whole situation presents a totally different aspect from that which has been described by the right hon. Gentleman opposite. I believe that had it not been for the machinations of the South African League and the persistent interference of interested men—who, for their own selfish motives, desire to keep up this agitation—the grievances of the Uitlanders would have been removed by President Kruger long ago. In all the comments which have been made upon the action of President Kruger, it seems to be forgotten altogether that this man has only too good reason to suspect the people of this country and our Government, and when those feelings of distrust begin to pass away and there are prospects of the kindly relations between the Uitlanders and the Transvaal Government being restored, these selfish intriguers and capitalists always put their finger into the pie and spoil that good feeling at the very outset. I could quote from *The Times* correspondent at Johannesburg, who was one of the chief agents in this conspiracy, to show that when President Kruger showed any signs of making concessions he was at once interfered with, and every possible means taken to excite and inflame passion in order to destroy good feeling and to keep up these disturbances, in order that the objects of the South African League might be achieved. I say it is monstrous to throw the whole blame of the

trouble and the bitterness which exists throughout South Africa upon the burghers, who are naturally alarmed and anxious as to the future government of their country, when the larger share of the blame lies with the capitalists of the Rand and the machinations of the South African League. The Colonial Secretary says that the Dutch at the Cape have equal rights with the English, but in the Transvaal the Dutch are the original inhabitants and the English came there as strangers. The history of these people is a very peculiar one. The burghers of the Transvaal have endured untold hardship and suffering, and they have gone hundreds of miles away into the wilderness in order to have their freedom and live in their own way; and then strangers follow them out there in order to live under their generous laws. (Laughter.) Hon. Members may laugh at that, but I only need to point to the palaces which have been built in London out of the profits of the Transvaal mines. There is no civilized community to-day where the mining laws are more liberal than they are on the Rand. My statement is sneered at, but I may point out that we were told the other day that enormous duties had been placed upon the food of the Uitlanders, and the cost of living had been greatly increased. Upon referring to the tariff lists I find that most of the common articles of food are very lightly taxed as compared with Natal and Cape Colony, and in both those countries the taxes are much heavier upon all articles of food than they are in the Transvaal. My complaint is that there is a spirit of injustice and a want of fair play in dealing with the Transvaal, for people exaggerate everything and give the Boers credit for no virtues, although they undoubtedly possess many. It is said that this great man—Sir Alfred Milner—has been sent out there; that he knows the whole subject, and therefore we must support him. But is he so very great a man? It is considered a kind of heresy or crime of the deepest dye to criticise Sir Alfred Milner. I have read with great interest all his despatches in the Blue Books, and I say deliberately that the tone of his despatches are more worthy of a “yellow” journalist in the United States of America or an electioneering agent than of a statesman. I never read anything more unfair and more sensational than the despatches of Sir Alfred Milner since his return. They

consist of clippings from newspapers and partisan reports giving one side of the question without alluding to the other side. I will give one example of one despatch which in my opinion is unworthy of any man holding a position of such responsibility. In a despatch dated the 30th of June last Sir Alfred Milner sent a newspaper cutting describing his reception upon his return from England. It was a magnificent description spread-eagled in the best American style, and was headed in large print, "A Strong Man Appreciated." Sir Alfred Milner clips this out of the newspaper and sends it to the Colonial Secretary as a proof of the splendid work he is doing. That is unworthy of a British statesman. When a man is anxious to see himself described as a strong man, and when he sends home newspaper clippings in which he is alluded to as a strong man, he is a dangerous man, because he is always desiring to do something to merit that description. The editor of the *Cape Times* calls every day on Sir Alfred Milner, and between them in the study of the latter they concoct articles, which are published and then sent by Sir Alfred Milner to the Colonial Secretary, who issues them in a Blue Book as evidence of the opinion in South Africa, although they are merely the concoctions of Sir Alfred Milner and the editor of the *Cape Times*. That is a condition of things not in the least degree calculated to justify the great opinion we are called upon to hold of Sir Alfred Milner. I repeat that I consider it to be most unfair to cram these Blue Books with these inflammatory partisan and aggressive despatches of Sir Alfred Milner and with these clippings from the *Cape Times*, and at the same time suppress or hide away the opinions of Sir William Butler, a man in my judgment much better qualified to give a better opinion on the subject, and who has much more experience of South Africa than Sir Alfred Milner. I trust that the Colonial Secretary may not be led to follow the example set in 1877, when the Transvaal was first annexed. The Debates then are one of my earliest recollections in Parliament, and I remember how the Members who were led by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Bodmin, who was supported to some extent by the Colonial Secretary himself, were resisted with furious denunciation by the Jingo of

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those days. The minority who opposed the annexation of the Transvaal commenced at twenty, and sank as low as five. They were denounced as obstructionists, their language was taken down, there was an all-night sitting, and the Bill was forced through. They were described as enemies of the Empire, and the very same language to which we have recently listened over and over again was used towards them. There was one passage in a speech delivered by the late Mr. Parnell, who took an active part in that struggle, which really appears in itself to contain the essence of this whole controversy. He said :—

"The Government have acted on the immoral doctrine that the interests of the people of South Africa are subservient to the interests of the Empire at large. The House is asked to sanction the annexation of the South African Republic, not for the benefit of the colony, but because it is alleged to be beneficial to the Empire."

That is exactly the principle we are asked to act on now. We are told by *The Times* and by the great prophets of the war policy that Imperial interests will suffer if the Transvaal is not brought to reason, but we heard little or nothing of the good of the inhabitants of South Africa in general. Had the Transvaal not been then annexed the seeds of suspicion and of distrust of this country which were then sown or re-sown in the breasts of the inhabitants of the Transvaal would never have been planted, and all the trouble and danger and rumours of war to which we are now subjected would never have occurred.

Mr. COURTNEY : My hon. and gallant friend the Member for North Armagh said in the course of his speech that this Debate was looked forward to with interest not only in South Africa, but throughout the Empire. I am not sure that his speech will be read in South Africa as showing that he has acquired a very exact, precise, or trustworthy knowledge of the circumstances; but I feel with him that this Debate is one of more than ordinary interest and more than ordinary responsibility, and I venture to hope, speaking with a very great sense of the difficulty of the task I undertake, that whatever words I may use they will be words of moderation, good temper, and judgment. The Colonial Secretary has

announced a very practical, important plan. If his speech had been confined to that statement I should have rejoiced at the announcement he made. He has said that a recommendation will be made to President Kruger to appoint a joint committee to investigate what would be the probable effects of the enfranchising law which has been passed in the Transvaal, whether it would secure an immediate and substantial representation for the Uitlanders. That is a most important inquiry, and if it is completed, as I suppose it will be, so that the committee shall ascertain, not only what numbers it is expected might be enfranchised under the law in the first year of its operation, but in the second and third years, and see the effect of it, not perhaps to-day, but to-morrow or next day, at all events, before we can expect any settlement by more violent means, then we shall hail the work of that committee. I hope the Transvaal Government will heartily assent to the investigation as a basis, at all events, to ascertain what are the facts we are dealing with, in contradistinction to the wild and acknowledged guesses hitherto made. My right hon. friend, unfortunately as I think, did not confine himself to that business statement. I do not think he meant to use the language of threat; he disclaimed altogether any such intention; but I do think that his language will be interpreted by others as involving menace. I also think it was most unfortunate that his analysis of the present situation should have begun at a too recent period. I will not attribute to the Government any precise and express threat; but when we read week after week of the demonstrations at the departure of troops for the Cape, when we receive almost day by day the announcements from Queensland and New South Wales, the offers from the West Coast of Africa, from men who are administering a Crown colony and are the creatures of the Colonial Secretary, the communications between the Government of India and the Government at home announcing that 10,000 troops might be spared from India for a campaign in the Transvaal—how can we say that these statements, even if the Government is not responsible for all of them, though it cannot escape responsibility for some, will not be viewed in South Africa and elsewhere as involving a threat? I was glad to hear the answer made by the

Leader of the House this afternoon that no troops other than white troops will be employed if a war should break out in South Africa. That was to me a very gladdening statement, because it got rid of the West African troops, the Malays, and the special men under the personal influence and direction of the Colonial Secretary.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Does the right hon. Gentleman believe that I suggested these things?

MR. COURTNEY: Not at all. But as the eyes of the handmaiden look to the eyes of her mistress, and the eyes of the servant to the eyes of his master, so these offers are evidence that in the Malay States and on the West Coast of Africa the people directing the government there thought that they were doing what would be agreeable to the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: It was very agreeable to me.

MR. COURTNEY: But against this expression on the part of my right hon. friend I am glad to put the statement of the Leader of the House that black troops would not be employed, which disposes of any weight attaching to my right hon. friend's expression. My right hon. friend said that this is not a new matter, that we are engaged here in working out a problem which has been in course of development for many years, and that President Kruger and his special associates have made it their standing policy, which they have developed with increasing energy in successive years, to put the British residents in the Transvaal under the heel of a Dutch oligarchy. My objection to the contention of my right hon. friend is that he has not gone back far enough, and has not considered elements which are essential to any real mastery of the problem. He dated it from 1881, and I saw with astonishment that the First Lord of the Treasury, in a speech he made yesterday, referred also to the commencement of this business in 1881. Given that the difficulty is the jealousy between the Dutch and the English; given that the spring of the whole matter is this

feeling on the part of President Kruger of a desire to keep under the English, did nothing happen before that? Did nothing lead up to it in 1881? Has nothing happened since? Have you not to realise that this feeling, which I admit is most appalling, the strength of which is perhaps the sting of the situation, must be traced to something far before 1881? Appeal has been made to the easy treatment under which the Dutch are admitted to constitutional privileges in the Cape and Natal. Everyone who knows the history of the Cape knows very well that the Dutch for a long time had no constitutional privileges whatever. Everything we are able to say now against the Transvaal could be said with greater force against English rule at the Cape. The crusade against the Dutch language was much more severe than the crusade against the English language now. There was no kind of free government. The Dutch were cut off from almost all participation in the organisation of the country. It is scarcely realised that the boon of responsible government in the Cape has happened within this generation. I well remember Lord Salisbury deprecating the wisdom of the change. He did not oppose it, but he questioned whether it was wise. My right hon. friend knows that responsible government in Natal is of still more recent date. Yet we talk as if what happens in the Transvaal is in shocking contrast to what existed for generations in the colonies immediately surrounding it. It was not so. The history of this movement has to be traced from the time when the Dutch farmers had no voice or share in their own government, when they moved out into the wilderness in order to escape from what they considered a tyranny and to enjoy freedom far away from the English flag. We must remember that these Dutch farmers went out from the Cape, and when they got to Natal we sent ships to Durban, and landed troops and drove them back, and how for seventeen years they maintained a precarious fight for existence, until in 1852 we recognised them. There is a strong distinction in the attitude of ourselves towards the Orange Free State and towards the Transvaal. Why is it? What are the differences between the two? The differences are these—that we attempted to take back the Transvaal and did take it back, and not till after years of weary re-

monstrance, culminating in war, was their freedom re-established. Not until after they in despair, failing to secure from the Gladstone Government the restoration of the freedom which they thought they had a right to expect, rose and fought—not until then was their freedom restored; and the fact that we did retake the Transvaal and the fact, the most unfortunate fact, that independence was not restored to them until after they defeated us are terribly important and permanent facts, poisoning the whole situation in the Transvaal from that day to this. There is also an accidental fact, but it is not a less potent one—the gold. Had it not been for gold, the Transvaal, after a certain time of difficulty, would have begun to forget their troubles and would have settled down to the situation of the Orange Free State. I have to recall another circumstance, which I think will commend itself to the acceptance of all candid men. Majuba Hill has told on both sides. One knows how many men there are in the Army who long to wipe out Majuba Hill. Military men constantly speak about it, and you may see their faces light up at the expectation. Majuba Hill has worked in South Africa as well as in the Army, and the Army, though it is not so potent in the United Kingdom as it is in some of the Continental countries, is still a great force in influencing public opinion and in creating a political situation. The memory of Majuba Hill has had a two-fold effect, and it will require all your patience, all your consideration, to work away from it. I must protest against the use my right hon. friend made of the word “suzerainty” again and again as representing the present situation. If you look at what Lord Derby said in the House of Lords, if you read his despatches, you will find that the word “suzerainty” is expressly dropped, because it was ambiguous, because it lent itself to misrepresentation, because it connoted a series of relations, none of which could be precisely affirmed, any of which might be brought forward when the occasion required, and the single fact of control over the foreign relations of the Transvaal State, which was the most important part of the old suzerainty, whatever else was included, was specifically provided for. I have so clear a view about this that if I had any influence with President Kruger, which I have not, I should recommend him to make this offer—to be willing to

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have this question of the legal interpretation of the documents which settled the relations between us decided by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council—excluding Members of the Ministry, and excluding the Lord Chancellor on the ground that he has already committed himself to an adverse opinion on the question. If I were President Kruger I would be quite willing to allow this question to be referred to the Judicial Committee and also the question whether the dynamite concession is an infringement of the Convention. I would allow that question also to be argued, with perfect confidence that a just result would be evolved, which just result I conceive would, with great probability, be in an opposite direction from the opinion of the Law Officers. My right hon. friend knows very well that international lawyers of the greatest eminence have given a decidedly contrary opinion to that which has been given by the Law Officers. And let me observe that, as I understand, Sir A. Milner, although he would not admit the intervention of foreign Powers, was willing to consider the possibility of referring questions in dispute arising out of the Convention or Conventions to a committee or arbitration board to be appointed for the special purpose. I am glad to say that I entirely agree with my right hon. friend that the immediate and practical controversy between ourselves and the Transvaal does not turn on the interpretation of documents, but rests on a broader basis. He affirms, and I think rightly, that inasmuch as there are a great number of British subjects in the Transvaal who complain of being treated with injustice, and appeal to Her Majesty to use her influence to get the injustice removed, the Government at home is entitled to look into their complaints, and, finding the complaints well founded, is entitled to address a remonstrance—and to carry on the remonstrance—to the Transvaal Government, which has inflicted this injustice. Of course, precisely the same power exists with respect to complaints made by British subjects in any other part of the world. If, for example, complaints came from another gold region, the Yukon, of Canadians being ill-treated on the United States side; or if complaints came from the United States of American citizens being ill-treated in Canada, they have the same right and the same general grounds

to remonstrate as we have with respect to the Transvaal. It is only a question of the validity of the grounds and of the circumstances. Now, Sir, what are the special grounds of injustice which are talked of? There is one case which, though it was treated with great force and clearness by the hon. Member for East Mayo, I must refer to, because one of the greatest charges made against the Transvaal Government was its failure to execute justice and to maintain a proper police. The gravest illustration of that charge is the murder of Edgar. Now, I am not going over all the circumstances again, but I would put it briefly in this way: Two men are engaged at midnight, both of them more or less tipsy, in a brawl in the street, and one knocks the other down senseless. A pal of the man who falls down calls the attention of the police to the fellow who is running away and entering the door of his house, and says, "That man has murdered my friend." Now, suppose it had been the case that the man who was running away was a Boer, and the man who was lying senseless an Englishman, apparently murdered—would it have been considered so very atrocious that the police were called in to pursue the man who was running away? It would have been recognised at once, as it is recognised by every criminal lawyer, that in such a case the police were entirely justified in pursuing, and if they believed, and honestly believed, that the man lying on the ground had been murdered, they were justified in breaking into the house.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The statement the right hon. Gentleman is making is an *ex parte* statement. Every single statement he has yet made about the case is denied by the friends of Edgar.

MR. COURTNEY: They were not present.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: It is denied by his wife, in whose presence he was shot, that Edgar was drunk. Every single statement the right hon. Gentleman has made has been denied.

MR. COURTNEY: I have not got inside the door yet. This is very important. The evidence is in the Blue-

book, and I will refer my right hon. friend to it. Does my right hon. friend deny that Edgar knocked down the man?

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: No.

MR. COURTNEY: That the man lay there senseless? That a policeman was summoned? Those are the statements I have made.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: My right hon. friend says that the man ran away and was pursued. His house was only across the road, and he went into his own house. My right hon. friend says that every criminal lawyer admits that the police, believing the man to have been killed, had a right to pursue Edgar into his own house. The police had no ground whatever for believing the man was killed. They never went to look at him until after they had shot Edgar down.

MR. COURTNEY: The attention of the policeman was called to the man on the ground. He was knocked down by Edgar, and Edgar was getting into his house, and I repeat that every criminal lawyer would allow that any policeman who saw this would be justified in breaking into his house and arresting him. Any man standing by would have been justified in arresting him. What happened subsequently is a matter of dispute. Whether Edgar raised a lethal weapon in his hand to injure the policeman is a matter of dispute. The Boer policeman shot Edgar, believing he was going to be attacked. Is there any possible reason why a man should shoot unless he considered himself in danger? I again appeal to hon. Members to ask themselves what their view of the situation would have been if it had been a Boer trying to get away. The case was tried, was fairly tried.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: No.

MR. COURTNEY: Evidence was given on both sides. The result was an acquittal, and the judge at the end said he was convinced that the Transvaal policeman always knows how to do his duty. That is the whole situation, and I say that, giving every chance to my right hon. friend, he cannot make this out to be a case of murder by the policeman. It may be construed into a case of man-

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slaughter or homicide, but, giving my right hon. friend every chance, he cannot be justified in bringing this case forward as a bad illustration of the lawlessness of the Transvaal. There is one other statement I have to make, which I believe is true. It is a statement in a simple letter in the *South African Times* in Johannesburg, and is dated from Johannesburg, made quite incidentally, without any suggestion of a political character upon it, that the man Forster, who was felled to the ground, was taken to a hospital, that he never recovered, and there died, and that he, Forster, and Edgar now lie one on each side of a little footpath in the cemetery at Johannesburg. A man was killed by Edgar, and if Edgar had not been killed he would have been tried for homicide. Now, I say again that if that be true are you justified in making the tremendous parade you make of this case up and down the country as an illustration of the maladministration of justice in the Transvaal? Sir, the policeman was tried, and it is an illustration to my mind that the people of the Transvaal have reached a certain amount of civilization that they should try a policeman who has killed another man. If it happened across the Channel the *droit administratif* would be called in. These considerations may lead us to ask whether, accumulating all the difficulties with the Transvaal, they make up a case on which to build up the necessity for instant action. Now, I am glad to agree with Sir Alfred Milner and my right hon. friend that the wise way is to go for the franchise. Get the franchise made more accessible, so that you admit the Uitlanders to a direct and substantial share in the legislative Chamber and the government of the country. That is the thing to go for. I agree entirely in that policy, and if that is fairly settled, other things may be expected to follow in due course. The real practical question before us now is whether the concession of a seven years' retrospective franchise is so much inferior to the concession of a five years' franchise that we cannot even take it as the basis for further operations, and must insist on an immediate concession of a five years' franchise. We may talk of war, we may make preparations for war, and make declarations which can be construed in no other way than as implying the proximity of war. Now, with respect to that, I come to what is the motive and

gist of my speech, and it is this—that the difference between a seven years' franchise and a five years' franchise is not, and cannot be, a sufficient ground for talking of war, nor for preparing for war, nor for proclaiming the proximity of war. It cannot constitute a *casus belli*. It is a singular circumstance that in the original message which appears in the Blue Book sent home by Sir Alfred Milner before he went into the Conference, he asked for directions, and my right hon. friend said he approved of his going for the franchise but gave him no specific directions. In the Blue Book the message received and correctly printed proposed to make the term six years. My right hon. friend received that proposal, he did not realise that six years was an impossible term, and he returned an answer which made no comment upon it. As a matter of fact we find out in a later Blue Book that the six years should have been five years; there was an error in the telegraphic communication. It is remarkable that six years was received as sufficient, or, at all events, that my right hon. friend made no complaint concerning it. It is a question whether you go to war with the Transvaal to compel them to give you a six years' instead of a seven years' or a five years' instead of a seven years' franchise. Why, is not time on our side? Does not the situation necessarily secure victory to the English-speaking people? Have they not the numbers, have they not the wealth, have they not the knowledge of affairs, have they not the political wit? They are as certain of winning as anything can be. My right hon. friend said the other day that with a seven years' franchise instead of a five years' there would not be half of them admitted at once. But next year the proportion would become greater, and the following year it would become greater still, so that in a little while there would be little difference between the number admitted under the one term and under the other. By the mere effluxion of time and the strength of your own influence you are certain of getting the predominance. Talk of war or contemplate war in order to bring about a five instead of a six years' franchise! Some members of the House—not many now—remember Lord Aberdeen, then Mr. Bruce, bringing in a drink Bill which was to give a ten years' run, and at the end of that time people were to have a free hand in dealing with the

drink question. The ten years' term was resisted as too long. Why, the ten years have passed by nearly three times over. If that proposition had been accepted we should now have the freest of hands in dealing with the drink question. And so in the same way, if you appoint a Commission before it has finished its labours the difference between seven years and five years will be lost. I say, Mr. Lowther, my purpose is to protest for my own part against the possibility of these warlike declarations being made. I believe that in this matter I express the feelings of many Members on this side of the House. By my speech I may possibly have estranged their sympathy and caused them to change their opinions the other way, but I know how many Members on this side have said privately that it is absurd to go to war over a difference of two years. That is true, and it is impossible to justify in the face of the world the suggestion that this two years' difference, which would cure itself before your war was over, justifies you in going to war. What effect a war would have on South Africa has been already described. I will only refer, in conclusion, to what the hon. Member for East Mayo called attention to a little while ago. My first session in this House was associated with action in this matter. I am only faithful now to what I did then. I am taking the same stand to-day that I took in the year 1877. It was the second session of my right hon. friend. He was then with us. I am sorry I have not the advantage of his great power and great influence with me to-day, but I think I shall be relieved from the aspersion that I am now indulging in mere petty personal criticism when I say that what I have said to-night I said twenty-two years ago from the other side of the House. Then a perfectly new Member, I raised my voice against an unwise annexation of the Transvaal. Then, as now, I pleaded for forbearance, conciliation, and the reflection that this was a problem which would cure itself if you let it alone. To go to war now, or to talk of war, for the difference between a seven and a five years' franchise I protest against with all my energy and might.

SIR H. MEYSEY-THOMPSON (Staffordshire, Handsworth): We have listened to many extraordinary speeches in this

House, but to none more extraordinary than that of the right hon. Gentleman who has just sat down. The right hon. Gentleman seems to have expended infinite ingenuity in devising arguments and expedients to enable not only our opponents opposite, but President Kruger also, to embarrass the Government. I will not follow the right hon. Gentleman into the complicated details of the franchise question to which he has been alluding. The question is not one between a five years' or a seven years' qualification, but whether the proposed alterations in the franchise will be sufficient to effect the purposes which are desired—namely, to give the Uitlanders sufficient political power to be able to insist on having their grievances redressed, and in obtaining a decent and just government. If the right hon. Gentleman, who tried to persuade us that the difference was small or no difference at all, had a river to cross, and if, when he attempted to do so, he found that the bridge was 25ft. too short, he would discover that this small difference of 25ft. made all the difference in the world so far as the purposes a bridge is intended to serve is concerned. I do not think he would be able to persuade himself that it was absurd to make a fuss about such a small matter as 25ft. in a long bridge. Experience would teach him that a bridge 25ft. too short is in reality no bridge at all. This Debate has wandered over a great stretch of ground, but what we have really to consider is whether there is any truth in what has been said, that ever since 1881 the Boer Government has tried to reduce the British population in the Transvaal to an inferior condition, and to make their position intolerable. The Boers after Majuba Hill had a splendid opportunity. The dangers which threaten infant States are generally interference from without, and want of money. There was England to protect them from outside interference, and there were the gold mines, and gold miners perfectly willing to provide them with an ample revenue for all legitimate purposes. There would be no difficulty in governing the Transvaal if it had ever occurred to the Boers to set their minds to govern well. The town of Johannesburg is isolated, and there would have been not the slightest difficulty in organising an efficient police and in stopping the illicit liquor selling. What is the position? There are five

different classes of population to be dealt with—the Boers, the natives of the Transvaal, the black miners, the white Uitlanders, and the Uitlanders from our Indian Empire. But four-fifths of that population are bitterly against the Boer Government. Take the financial question. The taxation of the Transvaal is nearly equal to the combined taxation of the Cape Colony, Natal, and the Orange Free State—although these three States have together between two and three times more territory and population to govern than the Transvaal. Then money is diverted from those who are working to produce the wealth of the State by railway extortions and monopolies, and this interferes with the development of the industries of the country. One of the great difficulties is black labour, and the use of mechanical drilling is interfered with by the high price of dynamite. The settlement of the Transvaal question will be discussed all over the world—in the camp of the Mahdi, in India, and by the inhabitants of every land with which we come in touch. If they see that England is determined they will probably keep quiet; but if they think England is weak, and can be insulted with impunity, it will probably cost us many other wars. The advantage to us of settling the dispute is very great. Settle it, therefore, once and for ever, and have done with it. We are spending half a million on South Africa more than we need, if this question were put an end to. It is interfering with business, not only in England, but all over the world. We are not asking for anything new, only that we may return to the state of affairs in 1881 and 1884, secured to us by treaty rights and conventions. I hope such a settlement will be come to as the world and the Empire will approve, which will make it clear that the gigantic power of the Empire will no longer be employed to shelter and protect injustice and misgovernment in the Transvaal.

*MR. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion): The hon. Member who has just sat down has made some reference to the grievances of the Uitlanders, but there is not one of them of such a character as to entitle this or any other country to interfere in any shape or form. I do not say that there are no grievances, but I submit that they have been very greatly exaggerated, while some of them

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have no foundation whatever. The Colonial Secretary very wisely refrained from going into details, and the hon. and gallant Member for North Armagh did the same. In fact, with the exception of the hon. Member who has just spoken, we have not had from the other side any reference to the specific grievances. But although the Colonial Secretary has made no allusion to these details we have before us now, after very considerable delay, the Blue Books, in which are enumerated all the grievances of which complaint can be made. Many of them, however, appear to have disappeared, at the present moment. Some years ago a statement was circulated in the newspapers to the effect that the Transvaal Government ground down the gold industry by heavy taxation. That grievance has now been practically abandoned. I believe it is incontrovertible that the gold laws in the Transvaal are more liberal to the gold-diggers than those in Rhodesia, the Cape, or Klondyke. In fact there is no gold-producing country in the world in which there is less direct taxation upon the gold industry. Indeed, it is very much less than it is in this country. All gold found in this country is claimed as belonging to the Queen, and the charge that is exacted by the Crown is very much greater than that exacted by the Transvaal Government. In other mining matters it is the same. Take, for instance, coal mining. The royalty charged in the Transvaal is only a fraction of 1d. per ton. But in all the mines of England and Scotland the charge is 2d., 3d., and 4d. per ton, and in Welsh mines it varies from 10d. to 1s. In other words direct taxation is from 200 to 1,200 per cent. more in this country than in the Transvaal. Complaint is also made of the burden of indirect taxation. I believe, however, there is not a single article of agricultural produce which is not taxed very much heavier in the Cape than in the Transvaal. Moreover, the large majority of articles of agricultural produce go into the Transvaal absolutely free from duty which are themselves taxed, and severely taxed, in the Cape Colony. The grievance as to taxation, therefore, absolutely falls to the ground. Another question which has been raised, and to which the hon. Member made reference, is the question of education. The whole of this griev-

ance, like most of the others when you come to examine them, quickly disappears. The education grievance is that in the Transvaal, which is a Dutch-speaking State, the Dutch language is taught in the State schools as a compulsory subject. Because certain Englishmen have gone to that country to settle, they think that they should have State-supported schools in which Dutch is not taught. But is it not absurd that any such complaint should be made? In Wales nobody makes a complaint of the fact that though the Welsh people in the county which I represent, as well as in the adjoining counties, speak Welsh exclusively, they are compelled to send their children to State-aided schools in which no Welsh whatever is taught. Then a complaint is also made about the interference of the Government with the judges. It has been said that justice is not meted out in the Transvaal. The whole of that charge is based upon one incident which, if examined, will show that it redounds really to the credit of the Transvaal Government and to the discredit of the Uitlanders. In the Transvaal the Government have the right to proclaim any district a gold district in which gold is found, and upon such proclamation being made, such is the liberality of the gold law that any person is entitled to go to that district and peg out any gold claim he likes, provided it has not been pegged out by anybody else before him. The sole restriction is that one person is entitled to one claim only, the object being the laudable one of distributing these claims equitably amongst the populace at large, and so preventing them from falling into the hands of big capitalists for the purpose of forming themselves into syndicates, and of launching them on the Stock Exchange at many millions premium. Some time ago an attempt was made by a certain capitalist to frustrate the object of the Government. Land in a certain district was proclaimed, and a large capitalist hired hundreds of men to peg out claims, nominally for themselves, but really for this large capitalist. Thereupon, when the Transvaal Government discovered that the whole law was going to be set aside by evasion of this kind, they withdrew the proclamation by a resolution of the Volksraad, and then the Chief Justice declined to recognise the resolution as binding. Resolutions of the

Volksraad, however, are as binding as Acts of Parliament in this country. It would be very much the same in the eyes of the Transvaal as if a judge of the High Court in this country declined to recognise the authority of an Act of Parliament, and was suspended and all the other judges were made to accept such authority. That is the only case, as far as I am aware, in which there has been any interference with the judges, and since a laudable attempt was being made by the Volksraad to defeat an illegal evasion the complaint falls entirely to the ground. Then, again, complaint has been made that the police are corrupted. The complaint is, as far as I understand, that the liquor-sellers buy the police. That may or may not be the case; but is not that a complaint which is heard nearer home than the Transvaal? Is it not heard in America also, where we are told by the anti-temperance people that although we can carry prohibition we cannot carry out the law? If, therefore, such a state of things exists in England and America, what right have we to complain that the Boer Government suffers to some extent from the same evil? It is the case all the world over. Is it not notorious that the Custom House officers are bribed in different countries—I do not say in ours—all the world over, in the lower walks of officialdom? We have only to cast our recollection back a very few years to remember an inquiry into the state of corruption of the police at Manchester. And what was found? It was found that the inspectors were in league with, and had a share in brothels, and that no prosecutions were taking place in these particular cases. That was corruption of a much graver character than is suggested to have occurred in the Transvaal. But was anybody so wild as to suggest that because corruption of such a kind was found to exist, not among common policemen, but in the higher ranks of the constabulary, the people of Manchester were not entitled to self-government, and that the rights of municipal government ought to be withdrawn? Nothing of the kind. It would be absurd to make such a suggestion. The Colonial Secretary in his nagging spirit has picked up every stone on which he can lay hands to throw at the Transvaal Government. The only remaining complaint that I know of is the treatment of coloured people. It is probably true that the treatment of the

coloured people in the Transvaal is very much worse than it should be. I believe that to be true of practically every country. But does it lie in our mouths, and does it lie in the mouth of the Colonial Secretary, who has practically connived at selling prisoners of war into slavery in the case of Bechuanaland prisoners, to make any complaint as to the treatment of coloured people in the Transvaal? It is said that the coloured people that are wronged are our own subjects from British India; but the severe treatment of British Indians in the Transvaal is more at the instance of the Uitlanders than of the Transvaalers. The only other grievance is the franchise. There are two important considerations which seem to me to be totally overlooked in connection with the Transvaal question. First of all, it is forgotten that no Uitlander in the Transvaal has been there for more than fifteen years, and secondly, that not one intends to remain permanently in that country. In this respect the condition of things in the Transvaal is unique. I do not think a similar state of things obtains in any other country in the world to which people emigrate. When persons emigrate to the Cape, Australia, New Zealand, the United States, or Canada, they intend dwelling there for good and all, especially when they follow agricultural pursuits. Under these circumstances it is only reasonable that they should receive the franchise at once, for they transfer not merely their bodies to their new homes, but their interests and their patriotic love. But even in these countries they keep them a long time without it. In the United States, I believe, the period is five, or six, or seven years. In this country it is nearly six years, but there is no suggestion that the condition of things existing here or in any other country is the same as in the Transvaal. As a matter of strict right, if a man goes into another country and remains there for ten or twenty years he should have no interest in the representation of the country if he intends to return to England and bring his family back with him. He has only the right to the franchise in the country where he can show that he has transferred his patriotic affections. I submit that there is not 1 per cent. of the men who have emigrated to the Transvaal who intend to remain, and that is the reason why even *The Times* has said.

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that legislation ought to be passed in this country to meet that difficulty, since it is known that the British Uitlander will not accept the franchise there, because, intending as he does to return to this country, he will not renounce his allegiance to England. It is impossible for any man to be the subject of two nations at the same time, and this is a consideration that has been totally overlooked. I am delighted, however, to find that President Kruger has met the English Government, and has made very ample and very liberal terms. He proposes to admit those who have lived for seven years in the country, and I do not think the Uitlanders are reasonably entitled to any further concession. It must be remembered that the mines of the Rand will be exhausted in thirty years or so, and even if these people wished to remain they would have to come back. In fact, Sir Alfred Milner himself has admitted that it is unreasonable to expect the franchise to be given in such a manner as would hand over the power of government to foreigners who do not intend to permanently settle in the country. In conclusion, I would venture to repeat the prophecy which I made upon the motion for the adjournment for the Whitsuntide recess. I then expressed the opinion that the Colonial Secretary would force a war if he could, but there were wiser and soberer heads in the Cabinet who would not permit him to carry out his desire. That belief has been strengthened. My belief is that he has tried to force a war. I believe that that violent telegram sent by Sir Alfred Milner was inspired by the Colonial Secretary or, at any rate, was sent knowing that it would please him, and that that was what he wanted. But fortunately it did not have the effect that it was intended to. I deplore deeply the right hon. Gentleman's attempts to bully the Transvaal Government by threats of war. I am certain that the large majority of this country, and, I believe, the majority of the Conservative Party, are of opinion that in no case are the grievances such as to entitle this country to be plunged into the fearful horrors of war. The policy of bluff is utterly beneath the dignity of a great country. I would scorn to be successful by this means. Unless we start in the belief that the grievances are such as to entitle us to go to war we ought never to threaten to do

so. I am thankful, however, that, owing to the action of Mr. Schreiner and Mr. Hofmeyr, the Colonial Secretary has been saved from another untenable position by the very substantial concessions which have been made by the Transvaal Government.

*MR. NEWDIGATE (Warwickshire, N.E.): I should not have ventured to intervene in this Debate were it not for the fact that I have only recently returned from a somewhat prolonged tour in South Africa. I do not think anyone can visit that country at the present time without forming a definite opinion one way or the other with regard to the crisis in the Transvaal. It is a subject of controversy in every part of South Africa, and wherever one goes he finds the wrongs of the Uitlanders discussed. From Members of the Dutch Party in South Africa one sometimes hears that some of these wrongs are imaginary, but I for my part could not help forming a very strong opinion. I welcome the firm, and, I think, peaceful and conciliatory speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for the Colonies, because I believe from that speech that he exactly understands the position of affairs in South Africa, and he seems to me to pledge the Government to take a strong and firm course. The gist of the speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Bodmin appears to me to be that because England committed a mistake in the past, therefore we are to continue to suffer for it. The right hon. Gentleman referred to our attitude towards the Dutch language, but I would remind him that when at the beginning of the century Holland re-obtained possession of the Cape and held it for seven years, during that period the Dutch authorities did everything they could to change the names of the persons who had settled there into Dutch names, and they also did their utmost to suppress our language, and in connection with this I would now ask why should not the same rights be given to British in the Transvaal as are given to Dutch in Cape Colony, wherein the Cape Houses of Parliament and elsewhere each language is placed on the same footing? In the course of the Debate I think that the subject which has attracted most attention was the killing of Edgar, and as several hon. Members have tried to

gloss it over as if it were a justifiable act, I should like to refer to an extract from the first of the Blue Books issued on this subject. It occurs on page 208. A deputation of working men from the Rand waited on Her Majesty's agent at Pretoria, described Edgar as a respectable man who was known to many of them, and complained of the unwarrantable conduct of the Johannesburg police who were armed with revolvers and terrorised peaceful Uitlanders. They drew attention to the remarks of the judge in commending the conduct of constable Jones, who had shot Edgar, and mentioned a case which had since occurred in which a policeman fired a revolver at a white man in the street. I merely refer to the extract because several hon. Members to-day have endeavoured to mitigate the conduct of the police with reference to the killing of Edgar, and because it clearly shows the opinion of the working men of Johannesburg on the subject. Apart altogether from the Edgar case, there are several other instances where the conduct of the police has been unjustifiable. There was the celebrated Uitlander meeting held in Johannesburg on the 16th of January, which a crowd of Boers, assisted by members of the Civil Service in the Transvaal, tried to upset, and when the law-abiding Uitlanders appealed for police protection it was refused them, and the meeting was broken up by Boer roughs. Then there was the death of Mrs. Applebe, the wife of a Wesleyan minister, who was set upon and so ill-treated that she died on the 28th of April. Then there was an assault on Mr. Slade, another Wesleyan minister, on July 8th, who has since died from the effects of the ill-treatment to which he was subjected. On July 11th Mr. Upton, the surveyor of the City and Suburban Mine, was shot at. No arrests were made, and surely in a place like Johannesburg if the police did their duty it would be perfectly easy to effect arrests. I merely mention these matters because from some of the speeches made this evening one would imagine that the Transvaal was a paradise, and that the government of the Transvaal was as excellent as any government could possibly be. I wondered when I heard an hon. Member referring to the abundance of gold in the Transvaal, and how easily fortunes could be made, if he

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had read the report of the Commission appointed by the Transvaal Government, and the members of which were mainly Dutch. The Commission reported on August 7th, 1897, that in 1896 there were 183 gold mines, of which 79 produced gold amounting to £8,600,000, and 104 no gold at all.

MR. DAVITT: Is that the fault of the Boers?

*MR. NEWDIGATE: I will explain presently, from the report of the Boer Commission of Enquiry, why I think it is the fault of the Boer Government. In 1897, out of 218 companies only 28 paid dividends, and between 27 and 28 millions of invested capital produced no dividend at all. The reason given was that, first of all, they declared that it was necessary to develop agriculture in order to make the necessaries of life cheaper. They also said that the liquor laws with respect to the natives ought to be very much more stringently enforced than they are at the present time. It is well known that native races who have access to liquor lose all control over themselves and cannot take it in moderation. They mention that between twenty and thirty out of every hundred of the natives imported at a great expense to work for hire at the mines become regularly intoxicated from taking too much liquor. In Rhodesia the native liquor law is very strict indeed, and that place has become, in consequence, happy and contented, and the native population do not suffer from drink so much as they do in the Transvaal. There is also the question of the high price which is charged for dynamite by the company which possesses the monopoly, for they charge about double the ordinary amount. There is the case of the excessive charges on the railways in the Transvaal, which makes it so expensive to bring articles to the mines, and there are certain other suggestions made by the Boer Commissioners which have been put on one side unattended to by the Boer Government. Bearing in mind the cases I have mentioned, I cannot help thinking that in some respects the Transvaal is not so well governed, and is not such a paradise as it is made out to be. Something has been said about Sir William Butler, and the hon. Member for East

Mayo said his despatches should have been put in the Blue Book. The hon. Member also said that Sir William Butler has had a great deal more experience of South Africa than Sir Alfred Milner. All I can say is, that when I was out in South Africa, in October last, the death of General Goodenough took place, and Sir William Butler was sent out to succeed him as general in command in South Africa, and he at once began to issue despatches hostile to the Uitlanders before he had been there many weeks. It is said that most of this feeling of race feud and bitterness has been caused by the South African League. I may point out that that league has only been formed for a comparatively short time. It is simply a British organisation intended to act as a "set-off" to the Dutch Bond, the Dutch party organisation. I think it has hardly been formed more than a year, and yet it is said that the bitterness, the envy, and the feeling which exist have been caused by the South African League. Such a statement is a travesty of the facts. It has been said that it is very hard to interfere with the Transvaal Boers, who went into the wilderness to escape from civilisation and lead a pastoral life; but I hope hon. Members will remember that Dutch people who owned farms have been glad to sell them to Englishmen, and they are now in good circumstances through the excellent way in which they sold their farms, which they were not obliged to do. It may be asked what business have the Uitlanders to complain of their lot, since they have chosen to settle in the Transvaal? I think every British subject has a right to appeal to the mother country if he feels himself hardly used. The Uitlanders pay four-fifths of the taxation of the country, and before appealing to the mother country on many previous occasions they have appealed to the Volksraad; but their grievances have been in no way removed, and their petitions have been rejected. I would ask hon. Members to remember that shortly before the Jameson raid, which has been so much condemned, a petition signed by 38,500 Uitlanders was sent to the Volksraad, but it was summarily rejected. After the retrocession of the Transvaal in 1881 there was an honourable understanding that all Englishmen should have equal rights in the Transvaal with the Dutch population. After the raid, the armed Uitlanders laid down their arms on the understand-

ing given by the High Commissioner that the Imperial Government would see that their grievances were removed and justice done to them. In South Africa there is an enormous preponderance of natives over the white races, and I believe that in South Africa the whole of the white population is only something like 800,000. In the Blue Book we read that over and over again outrages have been committed by Boer policemen on natives and coloured people. In South Africa the natives have always looked up to the British as their protectors, and they have looked upon them as giving them better treatment than the Dutch. I cannot help thinking what serious political effect this state of things, if allowed to continue, may have upon the natives, who are governed rather by the moral effect of the fair and just British dealing than by force, but who will in time think that the Dutch are the ruling race in South Africa if we allow this ill-treatment to continue while claiming to be the paramount Power. The feeling is so strong in South Africa among the British that if the Government do not adopt a strong policy—which I am very glad indeed they are going to adopt—every Britisher who is loyal in his devotion and attachment to the mother country will lose all confidence, and we shall also be distrusted by the native population. The hon. Member opposite said that Sir Alfred Milner has had no experience in South Africa. I cannot help thinking that Sir Alfred Milner has already shown a great deal of carefulness and a great deal of knowledge on this subject. I should like to give an instance. On page 57 of the Blue Book it is stated that:

"On the 13th of May, 1897, Sir Alfred Milner, who has only lately arrived in Cape Town, refused to give an opinion of the case of the *Critic*, because he had not had sufficient time to master the details of the case."

Then, again, he was unwilling to enter the Conference at Bloemfontein without a previous understanding. Sir Alfred was also taking the trouble to learn the Dutch language, in order that he may be able to speak to the Dutch population in their own language, and thus get that which the hon. Member for Mayo said was essential to anyone who desires to acquire a thorough knowledge of affairs in South Africa. In order to make himself practi-

cally acquainted with South Africa he has travelled through districts where no Governor has been since the time of Sir Bartle Frere, in one instance in a district unvisited by a Governor since the time of Sir G. Grey. I think Sir Alfred Milner was the best man that possibly could have been selected, and I do think that the House and the country would be doing absolutely wrong if they did not stand by the matured advice of Sir Alfred Milner. What we want is that the same privileges should be given to English subjects as are given to Dutch subjects in Cape Colony. It is said that we must be very careful and not offend the Dutch in South Africa; but if you take South Africa section by section and country by country, I think you will find that there is a great preponderance of British subjects in that country, as a whole, who are all united in their appeal to the mother country that the British and Dutch in South Africa may have equal rights in the Transvaal as they do in other countries in South Africa. In Rhodesia, with the exception of two districts, Enkeldoorn and Mallisetta, they are entirely British. In Cape Colony, the British and the Dutch are practically on a par as regards population; and in Natal they have sent in a petition to the Queen, upon the motion of both Houses, to support the Uitlanders. In the Orange Free State there is a very large minority of British people living in that country, and when you get to Delagoa Bay and Beira, and other Portuguese possessions, practically the whole of the trade is British. All these countries are waiting to see what this country will do in this crisis. When I think of the idea of asking this House to be careful not to offend the feelings of the Dutch, I cannot help remembering, with every goodwill towards the Dutch, that charity begins at home. We are Britishers, and surely it is the duty of the Government of this country to protect our subjects when they appeal to us as they have done at the present time. With people of the British race in South Africa loyalty to this country is a very strong feeling indeed. But if we do not support them in their just claims it is my firm belief that they will consider that we no longer take interest in their affairs, and will cut the painter which connects them with the mother country on the first opportunity. I thank the House for the

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patience with which they have listened to me, and I only ventured to get up to speak because I do feel that we are in the midst of a very serious crisis. What I have said I thoroughly believe to be the case, and if I may be allowed to do so I should like to congratulate the Colonial Secretary and the Government for the firm and just stand which they have taken upon this question.

*MR. MENDL (Plymouth): Unlike the hon. Member who has just sat down, I have not the advantage of a personal knowledge of South Africa, and I have no interest whatever in that part of the world. Therefore I can approach this subject with a mind perfectly free and unfettered. Of course I am very much inclined to sympathise with a small state like the Transvaal, even though the system of government is causing so much concern and trouble to the people of this country. But I am led to the conclusion that a state of affairs has arisen which demands the immediate attention of the Government, for it is a danger to the peace of South Africa, and to our position there as the paramount Power, to allow the present condition of things to continue. I know perfectly well that on this question I do not agree with some of my hon. friends on this side of the House, but, on the other hand, I think it should be clearly understood that those hon. friends of mine who have spoken from this side of the House, and some more who will no doubt speak during this Debate in the same sense, do not voice the unanimous opinion of the Liberal Party on this question. My chief objection to their attitude is that I am perfectly convinced that it does not make for peace. In my opinion, my hon. friends on this side are the real war party in this matter when they argue, or seem to argue, that we should be willing to support President Kruger and the Transvaal Government in the misgovernment and injustice which have been going on in the Transvaal for many years. My right hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition—both in his speech to-night and in his speech in the country—has shown that he does not minimise or deride the grievances of British subjects in the Transvaal, and the language which he used, and which has been quoted by the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary, is one

of the most trenchant indictments of the misrule of the Boer Government which it is possible to formulate. I do not rise for the purpose of defending the right hon. Gentleman or the Government. Until the policy of the Government is completed, we cannot say whether the course taken by the Government is the best under the circumstances to secure a peaceful solution, which everybody wants to see arrived at contemporaneously with an abatement of the evils which for a decade have weighed heavily on the peace and prosperity and material progress of South Africa. I believe that is the object of every hon. Member in this House, and in spite of what some of my hon. friends have said, I believe that it is also the collective desire of the Cabinet—and that opinion is borne out by what the right hon. Gentleman has said to-night as to the intention of the Government with regard to the latest proposal of President Kruger in the direction of a reform of the franchise. The right hon. Gentleman says that what the Government propose to do is to press for a joint inquiry into the latest proposals. That proposal makes for peace. I confess that one aspect of that question is not quite clear to me. I do not gather whether the joint inquiry is to be a short or long one, because there is a considerable difference between the two cases, for if an inquiry is extended over some months it may have a bad effect upon peace in South Africa. If it is to be a short inquiry it ought to commend itself to all lovers of peace. Both inside and outside of this House I think everybody desires that this great question should be settled by peaceable means, if possible, but I cannot understand the position of my hon. friends who are in favour of non-intervention, notwithstanding the existence of those wrongs which have been going on so long. It does not seem to me that it is necessary to approve or disapprove of the policy of the Government. Admitting every complaint as to the way in which the Government handled this matter, admitting that the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary is as black as the most extreme of my hon. friends can paint him; what has all this got to do with the British subjects in the Transvaal who are suffering a great injustice? I consider that position alone, and I say that those British subjects who have settled in the Trans-

vaal for the entirely laudable object of earning a living or of seeking their fortune are entitled to the ordinary rights and privileges, and to that protection which every civilised Government affords to all settlers within its borders. Why should these people continue to suffer what the Leader of the Opposition has described because of the sins of the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary? In the interests not only of justice and civilisation, but in the interests of peace and harmony in South Africa and the prosperity of the Transvaal itself, these grievances should be redressed. What are the arguments used against this course? They consist chiefly of an attack upon the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary and Sir Alfred Milner. I do not think it is fair to use the Uitlanders as a stick with which to beat the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary and Sir Alfred Milner. The right hon. Gentleman is capable of defending himself, but I do object to the attacks made upon Sir Alfred Milner, because, after all, he is not a partisan. For years and years he has served the State in the Civil Service, and everybody knows that the last thing to expect from a Civil servant is partisanship. The whole tone of the Civil Service is non-partisan. Sir Alfred Milner has been two years on the spot studying the question, and during that time he has made himself acquainted with all the local facts, and he has even studied the Dutch language in order to be more fully conversant with the opinion of the Dutch in South Africa. I therefore attach that weight to the opinion of Sir Alfred Milner which people should attach to the opinion of a man in such a position. What is the second argument used? We are told that these Uitlanders are not worthy of consideration by the British Government because they are either millionaires or "riff-raff and bar loafers." I do not know how many millionaires there are in the Transvaal, but I do not suppose that they are more plentiful there than they are in this country, and are therefore an infinitesimal portion of the population. As for the argument that these men are the riff-raff, I do not suppose that every Uitlander would be considered eligible for a first-rate West End London club; I do not suppose that every Uitlander wears a white shirt every day, but we do not

extend good government or the franchise in this country only to members of clubs and people who wear white shirts. There are doubtless a good many Uitlanders who are rough; they live in the vicinity of a mining camp, and I do not think it is surprising that they are not quite up to the mark of the West End of London civilisation. We know that there are many honest Cornish miners there, and miners from the north of the Tweed and from Yorkshire, and I say that it is a slander to call these men riff-raff. The real question is, are they British subjects? If they are, then they are entitled to British intervention when exposed to wrong and to misgovernment. I have no doubt the Colonial Secretary would say, "If you can show me another way to remedy these grievances other than the proposals which have been made, I shall be very glad to consider them"; but it seems to me that this is the only way in which you can deal with the question thoroughly.

AN HON. MEMBER: But they will cease to be British subjects.

*MR. MENDEL: That is so, and it may be an unfortunate thing, but it is necessary under the circumstances, and I do not think it lies with hon. Members on this side, who gave the Transvaal self-government, to say that they are not entitled to consideration on that account. It is said that we ought to be patient in this matter, but you can even carry that argument too far. We have tried patience for years and years, and the history of the question has been one long series of appeals to the Transvaal Government from the Uitlanders, and from the Imperial Government as well, until I think it may be fairly said that the representations to the Transvaal Government have now reached the verge of what is dignified for a great country. Then comes the question of whether force ought to be threatened. I understand the right hon. Gentleman to disclaim any threat of force, and I think everybody will agree that it is absolutely essential to exhaust every means of moral suasion before you resort to force. But I cannot understand the argument that you are to go on using only moral suasion and at the same time intimating to the man with whom you are dealing that under no circumstances will force be resorted to. What will be the

effect of your moral suasion under these circumstances? Human nature is the same everywhere, and if you make it clear to President Kruger that under no circumstances will you use force then your policy assumes very much the character of a *brutum fulmen*. What was the result of such a policy in the case of the Armenians? The result was that the Sultan continued to oppress the Armenians until there were no more Armenians to oppress. That was the result of the Sultan understanding that under no circumstances would force be resorted to. To my mind the grievances of the Uitlanders are genuine, and it is essential that the Government should take the matter in hand, and make it clear to President Kruger and the Transvaal Government that we mean business, and I was very glad to hear the right hon. Gentleman use such an expression. The material grievances to which the Leader of the Opposition referred this evening must be removed.

MR. DAVITT: What about the people of India?

*MR. MENDEL: I hope the hon. Member does not consider that the government of India by England is on a par with the government of the Uitlanders by the Transvaal. I believe the government of India is a humane government. If you have a thoroughly good government without the franchise, then possibly the franchise is not required. The principle of the franchise is to give people a vote in order to enable them to get good Government. The policy of the franchise may be a wrong policy, but surely it is not for Liberals to say so. What does it portend? The reform of the franchise is the only thing necessary in order to enable a people to help themselves and to work out their own salvation. I should have thought that we advocate the franchise, not as an end in itself, because a vote is worthless unless you use it to some purpose, but in order to enable a people to accomplish something. But of course the most important question connected with this matter is the racial question. We are told we must consider the feelings of the Cape Dutch, which, of course, adds immensely to the difficulties of the situation. As the Leader of the House said yesterday, if the Transvaal were an island or within a ring fence, it might be possible from the point of view

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of the material interests of Great Britain and the Empire, to wash our hands of the question, and leave the Utlanders to get on as best they could, but even then, to my mind the obligations of honour and the principle of Imperial protection for all subjects, wherever situated, would prevent a disclaimer of interest or responsibility. But the Transvaal is not an island. It is one of two free Dutch Republics surrounded by a large and valuable territory belonging to the British Crown. That territory is inhabited by two races, who live side by side in peace and concord—or who did, at any rate, between 1881 and 1890—enjoying equal right, and owing equal allegiance to this country as the paramount Power, and yet we are told that the Dutch in South Africa are going to object to our asking for the British in the Transvaal very much what they themselves possess. I should have thought that, considering the position of the Dutch in Cape Colony, they would see no reason for supporting the narrow and oppressive Government which obtains in the Transvaal. If they did, perhaps it might be intelligible on the principle that blood is thicker than water. But this argument can be carried too far, and if we are to consider the feelings of the Cape Dutch we must also consider the feelings of the Cape British. How is the policy of folding our hands and acquiescing in the helotry of our people likely to end? Will it not make them doubt the advantages of the Imperial connection? Is this great South African Empire worth retaining? I have no shade or shadow of doubt that it is. I doubt very much whether portions of our West African Empire are worth retaining, and I am not a great believer in Uganda, but South Africa is very different. Whatever may have been the primary difficulties of colonisation there we have overcome them. We have spent blood and treasure there; it is a country rich in mineral and other wealth; it is fit for white men to live and work in, and it is one of the most valuable assets of the British Crown. But it is impossible to deny in face of what we know, that this asset may be at stake if we permit misgovernment on the part of the government of one small portion of South Africa to continue. This country gave back to the Transvaal her independence, not in the exercise of generosity, but as an act of justice and reparation. There are very

few, if any, members of any Party to-day who wish to abnegate that independence. Her Majesty's Government and their supporters do not, because the Colonial Secretary and the Duke of Devonshire were both responsible for it. We are also responsible, for Mr. Gladstone was the Prime Minister who carried out the retrocession. But I cannot understand my hon friends failing to see that the very fact that we are all responsible for giving back its independence to the Transvaal throws on us a very grave responsibility to see that our fellow-subjects there are well treated. We gave the Transvaal its liberty, but it was not liberty to oppress and misgovern British subjects. It was given on the clearest ground that there should be equality of rights for all white men in South Africa—in that portion as well as in every other. That independence only becomes vulnerable if the Government becomes so bad that it is impossible to allow it to continue. That was the position which Lord Ripon took up in 1894 when he made much the same demand as is made to-day. At any rate, the basis is the same. Of course, I know we have to deal with extremists on both sides, but, as usual, the extremists are wrong. I have no sympathy with those who want war, and who thirst for an excuse to re-annex the Transvaal; but I have equally no sympathy with those who decry and deride the obvious grievances of British subjects in the Transvaal, and who ignore the responsibilities of our position as the suzerain and paramount power in South Africa. I am convinced that the right course to pursue is by the assertion of the rights we possess to see to it that this standing menace to the peace of South Africa is removed, and to do that in the only effectual way—viz., to remove the causes of the discontent or enable the discontented to remove them themselves by putting into their hands the weapon of the franchise, which Liberals in this country have prescribed, and rightly, as the only remedy for oppression. It is said that President Kruger and the Transvaal Government are waiting for the Opposition. I hope that this Debate and the Division, if there be one, will convince President Kruger that as long as his Government refuses to listen to the clear dictates of common-sense and justice he has nothing to hope from the Opposition, and that he

will in vain appeal to the great Liberal Party—which bases its historical claims to confidence on the reform of abuses—for support in his belated attempt to put back the hands of the clock and keep a great community in perpetual and irritating subjection to a narrow, illiberal, and corrupt oligarchy.

COMMANDER BETHELL (Yorkshire, E. R., Holderness): I think this Debate is one of the most curious we have had in the House of Commons during my time. Everyone admits it is a very great subject, but the difference has now been reduced to extremely narrow limits. We are all agreed that there are grievances, but we have asserted over and over again our intention to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of the Transvaal while at the same time using every moral suasion at our command to remedy these grievances. We have so far succeeded by the loyal support of the Queen's Prime Minister at the Cape—for Mr. Schreiner is the Queen's Prime Minister just as much as Lord Salisbury—and of Mr. Hofmeyr, and by their assistance we have reduced the difference between the demands of the Government of this country and what the Government of the South African Republic is willing to concede to very narrow limits. That is a positive fact. Sir Alfred Milner demanded that the franchise qualification should be a five years' residence in the country, and the Volksraad has just passed a law requiring a seven years' residence.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: What the Government have demanded is substantial and immediate representation.

COMMANDER BETHELL: You are asking for five years' residence, and the Transvaal is offering seven.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Five years and a great deal more. I really should be sorry to hear my hon. friend speaking under a misapprehension. What we require is substantial and immediate representation. Five years' qualification may not be sufficient, or even one year's qualification, because the whole thing might be altered entirely by the conditions attached to it, and everything will depend on the number of seats given after the franchise has been granted.

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COMMANDER BETHELL: This rather adds to the complexity of affairs. My right hon. friend says it is a question of immediate representation, and that, I presume, brings on the question of the redistribution of seats. I do not know how far that question is involved, but I think I am not far wrong in saying, having regard to the arguments used in the Blue Books, and assuming that the Government will not go back on the demands of Sir Alfred Milner, that in principle and substance the difference between the two countries has been reduced to very small dimensions. [Several hon. MEMBERS: "No, no."] Well, then, to dimensions which are not large. [An hon. MEMBER: "No, no."] Well, then, let me say at least dimensions which might be settled without the arbitrament of war. Let us bring home to ourselves what war would mean. It means that we should employ the whole machinery of our Army, with its weapons of precision and its quick-firing guns, to shoot down the burghers of the South African Republic and to devastate their country, and, whether it was intended or not, to annex the country. Would this country consent to have the burghers of the South African Republic shot down for such a small difference as now exists? That is what it means, and it cannot mean anything else. It is one of the most extraordinary propositions I have ever heard discussed in the House of Commons during the fourteen years I have been a Member of it, because it seems to me such an absurd conclusion to follow from such a very slight premiss. The right hon. Gentleman in his speech did not apparently place much reliance on the grievances of the Uitlanders in the Transvaal, because he alluded to the fact that there was great unrest in South Africa which was in some way threatening us. My right hon. friend of course has better information than I have, but I think he should lay before the Committee the information on which he bases that remark. For certainly I have heard of no danger likely to accrue to the British Empire in anything that has taken place in South Africa. The natives are not at all unfamiliar with checks having been received by the British troops in South Africa, but I do not suppose anything is happening now which is likely to disturb the natives or to make it essential for us to interfere in

the Transvaal dispute. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Bodmin asked the Committee to go further back into the history of South Africa than had been done by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. He traced in eloquent language some of the salient features of the South African Republic, and surely he was right in saying that the Dutch have grave grounds for misapprehension and fear about their independence. Nor is it quite the case, as the Secretary of State says, that during the last two years we have done nothing to excite the fears of the Dutch as to their independence, for two things were done under the auspices of my right hon. friend, which it seems to me must have caused the Government and the people of the South African Republic very grave apprehension as to the intentions of the British Government. It has been pointed out that three years ago the Secretary of State for the Colonies took a different view. After the raid the right hon. Gentleman implored the House to remember that our policy was to observe the Convention ourselves and to insist on its being observed by the South African Republic, and above all, to have patience—great patience. Two years elapsed, and my right hon. friend put forward a demand for suzerainty.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN : Where ?

COMMANDER BETHELL : In the official despatch.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN : I put forward no demand.

COMMANDER BETHELL : Well, then, an assertion.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN : Ah !

COMMANDER BETHELL : That is an extremely sore point with the South African Republic. We may think it ought not to be so, but it is. We have not been very complimentary to the South African Republic during the past two or three years, and I want to show they have

some ground to complain of our action. It is almost universally asserted here that all the fault is on the side of the South African Republic. One of the very reasons why the delegates from the Republic came to this country in 1884 was the question of the suzerainty. We may say it is absurd to attach so much importance to the matter, but we can understand how keen the dislike of the South African Republic was to the assertion of the suzerainty after it had been dropped. (HON. MEMBERS : " No, no.") Will any hon. Member assert that the claim to the suzerainty was put forward between 1884 and 1897? It was not asserted during that period, and when it was made by the Colonial Secretary the Government of the South African Republic naturally thought we were making an encroachment on the independence of their country. I am persuaded also that the demand in reference to the dynamite monopoly was regarded as an attempt on our part to get an opportunity for attacking the Transvaal, so that all the provocation has not been given by the South African Republic. I am not in the least a peace at any price man on this question. I know very well that by the comity of nations as well as by the Convention of 1884 we are entitled to see, and if necessary to assert, that our subjects should not suffer in person or liberty, or property, and if a clear case were made out I would heartily lend my vote to voice the assertion of that right even at the cost of war. I admit our responsibility in South Africa, but obviously it is not only the subjects of the Queen we are bound to defend. We are also bound to defend, if necessary, the subjects of all other nations because we refuse to permit the interference of their sovereigns. It is a mistake to imagine that our responsibility is limited to our own subjects, because we are responsible as the paramount Power for the subjects of other countries, and certainly I should not oppose the assertion of that responsibility. I am aware hon. Gentlemen are impatient at my taking a line strongly against their sympathies. I can assure them that I only take it under a strong sense of public duty. Years ago, when I entered this House, I did not mind nearly so much going against the views of hon. Gentlemen with whom I was associated, but as years go on one gets to know people better, and

one is more loth to take sides against his own friends. I can assure my hon. friend that the course I am taking is most disagreeable to me in one sense, and I only take it under a very strong sense of public duty.

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER succeeded Mr. GRANT LAWSON in the Chair.]

The question seems to me to be so very small to end in a dreadful war. I say "a dreadful war," because any war entered on without very grave reason must be a dreadful war—not because of the persons who would be killed in it—but because of the effects it would produce in generations to come. The wounds caused by it would not be readily healed. The wounds caused by our action from 1881 to 1884, our constant vacillation, our fighting with the Boers, our efforts to take away their independence, our restoration of that independence are not yet healed or forgotten. What madness, therefore, would it surely be, now, without some very extraordinary or overwhelming reason, to open yet wider those unhealed wounds which were given so unthinkingly a few years ago. I do not know how long the effects of such a war would last, but I am sure it would last a long time, and therefore I deprecate it in the most earnest way, not only on account of the result which would follow to the South African Republic, but because, frankly, I do not believe that the people of this country or that the House of Commons would tolerate entering into it for so trifling a reason as has been given by my right hon. friend. I am quite persuaded that many who are absent now, and many who have listened impatiently to me, would think twice before committing themselves to so dreadful an alternative.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): Opinion does not seem quite so united on the other side of the House, in regard to this matter, as is sometimes the case. I judge of that from the fact that of five Gentlemen who have spoken on that side since the Colonial Secretary, three have spoken in favour of his policy, and two against it. Taking that as an average of the opinion of the hon. Members on that side of the House, it seems that only two-thirds are in agreement with the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and one

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third against him. That is a very fair estimate, I think. [Cries of "Divide."] Hon. Members say "Divide," but they forget that we have claimed a day to discuss this matter, and that it is one of the most important which can come before the House. We have remained silent for a long time, and I can assure them we intend to discuss it thoroughly this evening. After the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for the Colonies spoke, I happened to find myself outside the House, when an hon. Member, who shares with me a general admiration of the dialectic skill of the right hon. the Colonial Secretary, suggested that he had not been so effective in his speech this evening as on former occasions. I took the opportunity of defending the Colonial Secretary. I said that while I agreed with my friend that the right hon. Gentleman had not been so effective as usual, we must consider the difficulty in which he was placed; that the Colonial Secretary was not able absolutely to speak his own mind, but had to represent the entire Cabinet, and to appear to fall into line with them. While he was speaking, I saw the members of the Cabinet were sitting in the gallery, like police carefully watching him, and seeing that he did not give them away. ["Oh! oh!"] It is all very well to say "Oh! oh!" but the Colonial Secretary was in that position, and I defended him on these grounds. Sir, it appears to me that we have not yet got to the bottom of this subject. We do not, apparently, understand what is the real reason of the present crisis. It is not really the grievances of the Uitlanders. These are in this particular case a mere pretext. The House must realise that in Cape Colony there are two parties, one represented by Mr. Rhodes and his friends, and the other by the opponents of Mr. Rhodes. There was recently an election at the Cape, when Mr. Rhodes's party were beaten. It was then suggested that Mr. Rhodes's party was defeated because there was not a fair distribution of seats. But a Bill was passed in the Cape Legislature—no jerry-mandering Bill, but a Bill agreed to on both sides—and in the election which followed the re-distribution scheme Mr. Schreiner's majority was increased. Well, the friends of Mr. Rhodes were bitterly disappointed, and they determined to regain their power by foul means if not

by fair. ["Oh! oh!"] The South African League is the fighting force of Mr. Rhodes's party. The plan was to go into the Transvaal, and to use the grievances of the Uitlanders there in order to create disturbances, in the hope that they would extend to Cape Colony. Sir, in the Cape the opponents of Mr. Rhodes are not alone the Dutch. The Afrikaner Bond have never been able to return the majority by themselves. They have with them a very large number of Englishmen, who, rightly or wrongly, are disgusted with Mr. Rhodes's policy, and by all the speculation, and all the wild enterprises involved in that policy. They are, further, angry that Mr. Rhodes has only been nominally punished for the raid, which has been so injurious to South Africa. We are told that the Dutch in South Africa are disloyal. On what grounds? The Press is in the hands of Mr. Rhodes and his friends; and the Press undoubtedly tells us, through the correspondence to the newspapers here, and through the Cape newspapers, that the Dutch are disloyal. But the Dutch indignantly repudiate that, and say that they are as loyal as any of our colonists in any part of the world. It is perfectly monstrous that an attempt should be made, by those political leaders at the Cape who have lost their power, to create a disturbance, and to attack their fellow citizens in the way they do, in the hope that the balance of power may be redressed with the aid of British bayonets. One hon. Gentleman opposite told us that the English in the Cape are patiently loyal, but he gave an extraordinary instance of their loyalty. He said that if we do not do what they wished they would immediately "cut the painter."

*MR. NEWDIGATE: I must explain. The English in South Africa remember Majuba Hill. They feel that they have come to a great crisis in the present time. And I stated as my honest conviction, gained from three visits to South Africa, that if the British are not supported there, as they should be, on the first opportunity they will set up on their own account.

MR. LABOUCHERE: My hon. friend has not bettered his position by his explanation. At least the Dutch have not threatened to "cut the painter," if we do not support them. The loyalty of the

noble English patriots in South Africa is entirely dependent on our doing exactly what they want. I said that the South African League was the fighting force of the Rhodes party. Some hon. Gentleman said "Oh, oh!" Well, I think General Butler knows quite as much of the South African League as hon. Gentlemen opposite, and General Butler speaking of one of the cases put forward by the Colonial Secretary of monstrous injustice to the blacks on the authority of the South African League, said:

"I am convinced that it is necessary to receive with caution, and with even a large measure of suspicion the statement of the officers of that organisation."

And Mr. Schreiner, the Prime Minister of Cape Colony, said in a despatch on the same subject, that by the action of the South African League, both in Cape Colony and beyond it, they were endeavouring to foment the excitement between the two European races. It is really necessary to understand what has been the cause of all the present troubles in South Africa. I maintain that it is owing to the action of the newspapers in this country. They have persistently telegraphed falsehood upon falsehood and mis-statement upon mis-statement. Take one instance. Three days ago it was telegraphed over here by the correspondent of the *Standard* and by other correspondents that Mr. Schreiner had written a despatch to President Kruger, advising him not to yield to the pressure of the Colonial Office. The correspondent went so far as to say that he had seen the telegram himself. But the next day Mr. Schreiner absolutely denied that he had done this, and Sir Alfred Milner said he had seen the telegram, and the statement was absolutely without foundation. Take another instance. The *Daily News* professes to be a Liberal newspaper, and no one on this side of the House denies that it is a representative Liberal organ, except in regard to certain foreign matters. Well, the correspondent of the *Daily News* is Mr. Garrett. Who is Mr. Garrett? He is the Editor of the *Cape Times*. ["Question."] An hon. Member says, "Question," but surely we want to know whether we are able to believe these statements in the newspapers or not; and surely it is necessary to know who sends over the information. Mr. Garrett is editor of the *Cape Times*, and the *Cape*

Times is owned by gentlemen in Cape Town, amongst whom gentlemen who were connected with the raid are very fully represented. Therefore, we must take with a very considerable grain of salt anything that he sends to the *Daily News*. I believe the correspondent of *The Times* also is connected with a newspaper in Johannesburg itself. What is the position in regard to the Transvaal? We do not deny for a moment that there is great room for reform in the Transvaal. We believe there is a great deal of maladministration, and that in no self-governing country would the evils be permitted which exist in that country. We know it is not a paradise. Paradises are rarely found in this world, and certainly I would not select the Transvaal with its millionaires and its gold mines as the paradise of the world.

AN HON. MEMBER : It is the paradise of the working man.

MR. LABOUCHERE : Except in regard to working men, as my hon. friend says. It is for them a paradise. We have not taken into consideration the enormous difficulties of President Kruger. He is naturally distrustful having regard to the raid. You can perfectly understand the head of an agricultural body of men like the Boers, who trekked into the wilderness in order to prevent being intermixed with other people, being jealous and wary when there was a gold rush into the country. Moreover, there is something peculiar in the nature of the gold in the Transvaal. It is different from the gold in other parts of the world, such as Australia and California, where on the alluvial fields each man works for himself. But in the Transvaal it is necessary to work the gold by very expensive machinery, and consequently the whole business is in the hands of capitalists from this country, who can do precisely what they wish, and form themselves into a capitalist oligarchy. It is not a question whether the gold laws of the Transvaal are, or are not, inequitable or liberal; although it is admitted that the gold laws in the Transvaal are more favourable than in Rhodesia or in Cape Colony. It is not so much a tax upon the people as a question of royalty. The gold belongs to the State, and the State has a right to exact what royalty it pleases. It is well known

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that we Radicals desire that the coal mines in this country should belong to the State. But they belong to private individuals, who exact exceedingly heavy royalties from those who work the coal. We should bear in mind this fact, that the owners of gold mines in the Transvaal do not pay so heavy a charge upon their profits as is paid by any man who takes a coal mine here, and the only difference is that in the Transvaal the royalty goes to the State, whereas here it goes to the individual proprietor of the land. The worst of this business is that Sir Alfred Milner has been a partisan. ("No.") All these things are a matter of opinion, but I would ask anyone to read the Blue Books, and then to deny that Sir Alfred Milner accepted every assertion made against Mr. Schreiner without question. I have read the Blue Books, and that is the conclusion I have arrived at. He might have thought that he was right, but undoubtedly he was a partisan on the side of the South African League. Sir Alfred Milner, no doubt, is an able financier. He went to Egypt, and did very good work there. He was also a very able journalist here. But it by no means follows that a man who was an able journalist and financier should be a very able governor of a self-governing colony. Then the agitation culminated in the petition to Her Majesty. The right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary said that he was convinced that that petition was honestly signed. But everybody knows that petitions are poured into the House of Commons, and that persons are paid for obtaining the names to these petitions, and that there are very grave suspicions in regard to the *bona fides* of these petitions. That was the case as to this Transvaal petition, and I have very grave doubts as to its genuineness. There was a counter-petition, signed by almost the same number of names as the first one, and I have as much distrust of the one as of the other. Then the Bloemfontein Conference took place, when Sir Alfred Milner proposed that the franchise should be given to the Uitlanders after five years' residence. It is a curious fact that there was a despatch by Sir Alfred Milner, in the Blue Book, to the Colonial Secretary just before he went to the Conference, saying that he was going to propose a six years' franchise. Sir Alfred Milner telegraphed ultimately saying that that was a mis-

take, that he was going to propose five years. The Colonial Secretary, however, approved of that six years' franchise, although he afterwards refused to discuss it, and made a sort of ultimatum of the five years' franchise. Then came two despatches, which were very remarkable; we had a telegram from Sir Alfred Milner which proceeded to attack the loyalty of the Afrianders of Cape Colony. The Colonial Secretary was asked whether the telegram was published with the consent of Sir Alfred Milner, and he said it was. I could never understand why it was published at all; but it was, and in hot haste. And a despatch was published which was written before the Conference and held over. That despatch was one long railing accusation against the Transvaal; the Colonial Secretary went through every case, and in an *ex-parte* manner attacked the Transvaal with all the offences which they had committed, and all those which they had not. With regard to the Edgar matter, Sir Alfred Milner calls it the "Edgar blunder," the Colonial Secretary calls it the "Edgar murder"; but no jury, had the case occurred in this country, would ever have convicted the policeman of murder. The right hon. Gentleman also said that the Boer Government was corrupt, because a Boer official stole some thousands of pounds, some of which has not been recovered. He also referred to a meeting which culminated in a riot and a few broken heads; but I remember a riot in Birmingham, when a highly respectable friend of the right hon. Gentleman's, called Larry Mack, was said to be at the head of a body of roughs. These despatches were published on one specific ground; they were an appeal to public opinion. Upon this Mr. Schreiner and his Cabinet interfered, and we always thought he did a useful work; but when we are told by the Colonial Secretary that we are not to listen to Mr. Schreiner, whose proposals were not the best way to attain our ends, and that it is best to make war against the wish of one of our self-governing colonies, and the paramount State in the country, I do not agree. Mr. Schreiner says that disaffection exists at the Cape, and no doubt racial feeling does run high, but I do not think that feeling goes so far as to show that there is disaffection. What I believe is that if you make war in the Transvaal you will have the majority of

the Cape Colony and its Ministers disapproving your policy and taking some very hostile action. The Colonial Secretary told us with great delight that, in the event of the necessity arising, the Malays and the Hausas had declared their intention to fight for us; but it is well known that both these peoples will fight for anyone who pays them. I was surprised to hear what the right hon. Gentleman said, after what the First Lord of the Treasury said the other day, if we went to war, only white troops would go to fight white men. The Colonial Secretary tells us that if we do not support the Uitlanders we should lose the respect of the natives, who might rise against us, and that we should lose prestige in Europe if we do not go to war. An Act has been passed by the Transvaal embodying the proposals of Sir A. Milner, with one exception—he stipulates for five years, and the Act makes it seven, and, we are to go to war for a matter of two years. But the Colonial Secretary proposes that a Joint Committee of Boers and British should sit and look into this question and see whether, under this present Act, the Uitlanders really receive such representation in the Volksraad. I was delighted to hear that proposal made, because we know perfectly well, whenever a Government desires to save appearances, it always proposes a Committee; but I was sorry to hear him accompany that suggestion to the Transvaal with threats, because that is not the way to induce that country to enter into the proposal. Though President Kruger is a stiff-necked man, he is ready to yield to friendly proposals. At all events, I hope the Colonial Secretary will approach President Kruger in the matter of the Commission through Mr. Schreiner, and not through Sir Alfred Milner. There is a great deal of personal feeling between the Colonial Secretary and Mr. Kruger. I have heard rumours of the resignation of Mr. Kruger, and I am perfectly convinced that everything would be arranged satisfactorily if President Kruger and the Colonial Secretary would both show their patriotism and resign. In a speech he made at Ilford, my right hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition said that at this moment he saw no cause for hostilities or for hostile preparations. My right hon. friend spoke as the representative of the Liberal Party, and, after listening to the Colonial Secretary, he repeated that statement. That is a very important statement, and it shows

that if the Government go to war they will have against them, not only the Transvaal and the Cape Government, but also the Liberal Party. Can the statement be explained in any other way? I am proud of my right hon. friend, and I agree with him entirely. I do not say that the Colonial Secretary is a buccaneer, but when he poses as a man of peace, he is quite an exceptional man of peace. The Liberal Party is not in favour of this war. [Cries of "What war?"] This war that is threatened if the Transvaal does not yield. I do not believe there will be a war, and I should be sure of it but for the fact that I do not regard the Colonial Secretary as a very peaceful man. I believe a large majority of the Cabinet, and a large body of gentlemen on the opposite side of the House, are against war. I congratulate the right hon. Gentleman on his suggestion of a Joint Committee, and trust that it may lead to a satisfactory solution of the whole difficulty.

*MR. ELLIS J. GRIFFITH (Anglesey): The hon. Gentleman who has just sat down has discussed a number of topics, but has kept at a respectful distance from the subject under discussion, which, as I understand it, is whether the Committee does or does not approve of the conduct of the Colonial Office in regard to the Transvaal. One curious thing is that the hon. Gentleman has calculated that two-thirds of the Gentlemen opposite are against the Secretary for the Colonies. The hon. Member has a simple means of testing the feeling of the Committee. Let him move a reduction of the Vote.

MR. LABOUCHERE: Perhaps the hon. Member will allow me to explain. I am not such a perfect fool as to move a reduction of the Vote. Hon. Gentlemen opposite are Party men.

*MR. ELLIS J. GRIFFITH: I am not inclined to differ from the hon. Gentleman in the conclusion he has come to about himself. I will not, however, pursue the subject, for though it has attractive features it probably would not be in order. The hon. Member occupies a peculiar position, he is not an ordinary Member, and for the first time to-night he finds himself proud of his leader. He is not only leader, but follower; he is leader of a small party, and he is also the party of a small leader. He will not divide the Committee because he does

not want to "tell" himself in the Lobby. So far as I understand, the question the Committee has to discuss is—first, are the Uitlanders suffering substantial grievances? If they are not there is an end of the matter. If they are suffering from substantial grievances, have we the right or duty of intervention on their behalf? Thirdly, if we have that right, how should we exercise it? That, to my mind, is the whole subject of discussion, and as I am taking a course at variance with that of some—not all—of those with whom I usually act, the Committee, perhaps, will give me an opportunity of explaining my personal view upon this matter. Is it seriously contended in any part of the House that the Uitlanders have not substantial grievances? ["Yes."] One Member, a countryman of mine, disputes that, but he stands alone. ["No, no."] Perhaps he is joined by the hon. Member and his Party. It is for the Committee to judge what constitutes a substantial grievance. Let us take, first of all, the administration of the law. Is that satisfactory when the judges can be removed at the will and pleasure of the Executive? Is it satisfactory that the Volksraad should be able by sudden resolution to repeal any law? Is it satisfactory that all proceedings in court should be carried on in a language unknown to the great majority of the people, and not translated at a trial? Is it satisfactory that in all civil and criminal cases juries should be drawn from one small class of the population? We have all heard of the Edgar case—the result of that was a foregone conclusion. Four days after the murder, a discussion arose as to the ultimate charge which was to be brought against the policeman, and it was said by the State Attorney, that if it was a charge of manslaughter the counsel would have a much easier task. What does that mean, if it does not mean that partisanship exists, and that where a question between the Boers and the Uitlanders arises the Uitlanders' chances of justice are very small? It is a remarkable thing that just before the trial of the policeman the State Prosecutor brought an action against the editor of the *Critic* for criminal libel. The State Prosecutor bringing an action for criminal libel produced evidence. First he went into the box and said he did not think the deed was murder; then the Assistant-Prosecutor said he did not think it was murder; and then the policeman Jones gave evidence,

Mr. Labouchere.

and we could hardly expect him to take a different view. Is the administration of the law satisfactory in a country where these things are possible? Then let us take the taxation to which the Uitlanders contribute—and they have a right to see how the money is spent. The first thing I understand is that taxation is heavy because expenditure is excessive; £30,000 a-year is spent in secret service, a larger sum than is at the disposal of the British Government for the purpose; £1,200,000 is spent in salaries of Civil servants. How many Boers are there over sixteen years years of age? Thirty thousand; which gives an average per Boer of £40 a year. I can see now where the Colonial Secretary got his idea of pensions from. Even if the Boer paid his fair share of taxation—£13 6s. 8d.—he would have a balance of £26 13s. 4d. Is not that rather a serious state of affairs? But then there are some people who think there are no grievances in that country. In the matter of personal freedom, it is still worse; a man can be expelled simply on the order of the President; if more than five men meet together in the open they are ordered to move, and if they go into the Amphitheatre they are liable to severe ill-treatment.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS: No.

*MR. ELLIS J. GRIFFITH: The thing has actually happened. Then there is the matter of the British-Indian subjects; they are not treated fairly, and I agree with the Colonial Secretary when he says that that is not merely a local matter. It is likely to have a far-reaching effect on our position in India. As to corruption, it is perfectly well known, and is not denied. Out of twenty-four members, twenty-two admitted that they were bribed for the votes they gave. Mr. Woolmeraus stated himself that there had been defalcations in the national accounts, amounting to £2,000,000. That is a substantial set of grievances, and Her Majesty's Government not only has the right, but it is our duty, to interfere. We owe a special duty to the Uitlanders on account of their laying down their arms in 1896, on the faith of the promise that their grievances should be attended to, and it would be a breach of faith to leave them in the lurch now. Now, there are

two ways of dealing with this matter. Either take the grievances and deal with them seriatim, or if the franchise is given, drop the grievances; but that would be a fatal course to take unless the franchise is immediate and substantial. I do not think one-fifth of the representation is substantial. So I hope the Government will not yield an inch upon this important matter. With regard to the application of the remedy, it seems to me it was not very relevant to talk about war, and it is a curious thing that it is always the friends of peace who talk about war. I believe we are all agreed upon exercising firm pressure, but firm pressure must have force behind it in the long run or it is nonsense. I disagree with the strictures on Sir Alfred Milner, who has acted ably, conscientiously, and with exceeding moderation. I am glad that the Colonial Secretary has made up his mind to go through with this business, and I can assure the right hon. Gentleman of my vote and support.

*MR. J. M. MACLEAN (Cardiff): The grievances of the Uitlanders are admitted by President Kruger, who now offers a substantial and immediate, if not a complete remedy. This Debate has had one good result; it has drawn from the Secretary of State the declaration that there is no immediate hurry for the settlement of this business. There is to be an inquiry to ascertain if the new Franchise Law provides a compromise which can be accepted as satisfactory by Her Majesty's Government. This will take time, and it is a distinct relief to feel that we can now go to our homes without being anxious lest the country should be plunged into a war before Parliament reassembles. I do not think that the Secretary for the Colonies has been quite fair or just to Mr. Schreiner, who has succeeded in doing a work which Her Majesty's Government and Sir Alfred Milner failed to do. Mr. Schreiner took up the work where Sir Alfred Milner left off, and he has succeeded in carrying it to a successful issue. There is another matter in which I do not agree with the right hon. Gentleman. He has referred at length to the grievances of the Uitlanders with regard to the franchise; but I would point out that the franchise has now been granted, and it is unfair to come down to the old catalogue of offences

I venture to think, too, that some of these offences have been manufactured. Take, for example, the outcry that has been made regarding the way in which the Indian subjects of her Majesty are treated. The Secretary for the Colonies knows very well that Indian subjects of the Queen are treated quite as badly in some of our own colonies in South Africa as they are in the Transvaal. The Leader of the House, in a speech yesterday, stated that President Kruger had made a great concession, and expressed his sanguine belief that the rest could easily be adjusted, and there is, therefore, no cause for quarrel left. Many people wish to avenge Majuba Hill; but we cannot atone for a blunder by committing a crime. It is true that distinctions have been drawn between the Boer population and the Uitlanders during the past twelve years, but I would remind the House that the Transvaal has been invaded by vast numbers of aliens, and I doubt whether any other country would, under similar circumstances, have acted differently. During the past year one or two things have changed considerably in the Transvaal, and Lord Salisbury has made an arrangement with Germany which makes it impossible that British influence can ever be interfered with again. I cannot say that, in my opinion, Sir Alfred Milner did all that he might have done in his Conference with President Kruger. This is shown by the abrupt way in which Sir Alfred Milner broke up the Conference and by the fact that during the Conference he practically hurled an ultimatum at President Kruger, declaring that if it was not accepted there would be war. I ask the House if that was not calculated to excite in President Kruger a determination to stand up for the rights of his country and for his independence. In conclusion, I wish to express the hope that during the recess the Colonial Secretary will impose a self-denying ordinance on himself, and refrain from writing despatches, and that we shall hear less of the movements of troops and other warlike preparations.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I think we now might with advantage bring this Debate to a close. I quite recognise the great importance of the

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subject, but there is work still to be done in the course of the evening, and in the general interests of the business of the House I suggest that this particular Debate may now come to a conclusion.

MR. C. P. SCOTT (Lancashire, Leigh): The hon. Member for Anglesey divided his speech into three parts—first, he inquired whether the grievances of the Uitlanders were substantial; secondly, whether we had a right to redress them; and thirdly, in what way it should be done; and I must say that in dealing with the second portion—the right we had to interfere by force of arms in this matter—he dismissed it with extreme lightness and brevity, in a manner which would not have been expected from any man who called himself a Liberal. He preferred rather to indulge in sneers at some of his fellow Members on this side of the House, and at the President and Boers of the South African Republic. He next proceeded to urge the Colonial Secretary to be firm and vigorous, as though the right hon. Gentleman had evidenced any unwillingness to show such a spirit. I venture to think my hon. friend has, in these words, only given expression to the feelings of an insignificant minority of Members on this side of the House. I listened with great attention to the speech of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in order to see how he justified his attitude towards this little State of the Transvaal—a State which we ourselves created, and whose rights we once took away and then restored. Surely we owe to this people not merely just but generous treatment? This is not a question whether the Uitlanders have any grievances. I dare say they have; what people have not? Probably some of them are very hard to bear. But we in this country have had grievances to bear. It is not so long ago that many of our own people had not the franchise, and they tried very hard to get it for a great number of years before they succeeded. These men were not aliens: they were our own flesh and blood; they bore the burdens of the State in the wars, and they paid their taxes. While the Uitlanders do not fight the battles of the Transvaal, our agricultural labourers do fill the ranks of our army. How long is it since they were given votes, and how intense was the sense of grievances of hon. Members opposite at their

failure to secure enfranchisement? I say, therefore, that the question of grievances is not an essential one. The real thing we have to consider is, what right have we to interfere? Are we entitled to intervene by force of arms in a matter of purely domestic concern—a matter absolutely within the competence of the Transvaal State? I venture to assert that neither the Colonial Secretary, nor any Member on that side of the House, has shown any substantial reason for our interference; and it would be one of the most ignoble, most shabby, and most ungenerous acts which a great nation ever committed if we did intervene. The right hon. Gentleman has not pretended that we have any right to interfere under the Convention, although he did claim some right to act under the general law of nations. But that is a most preposterous assertion. We could not claim a right to take similar action on behalf of British subjects in France, or Russia, or Turkey, and why then should we feel ourselves called upon to do it in the case of the Transvaal? The argument will not bear examination, and it makes me blush with shame when I see a great historic Party, like that opposite, capable of the despicable meanness of seeking, on such grounds, to go to war against a poor little State, containing 30,000 farmers. I do not believe that the people of this country, when once this matter has been fairly placed before them, will tolerate the oppression of a little State of this kind, which we hold in the hollow of our hand, for any reason such as has been assigned in the course of this Debate. We are told that as there have been breaches of the Convention, we are entitled to tear it up. But the Boers do not admit having committed any breaches. By all means, let us insist on the Convention being observed, and not begin by tearing it up. Again, we are assured that our suzerainty gives us a right to interfere. The word "suzerainty" is one something like "Mesopotamia"—it may mean anything, or it may mean nothing. The suzerainty argument is really unworthy the attention of the House, for it has been shown in a most convincing manner by that great international lawyer, Professor Westlake, that whatever suzerainty there is is limited and defined by the Convention. The real ground on which we are proceeding is, indeed, a totally different one. There is a feeling that the

power of this country in South Africa is in danger in some way. But the British Empire has survived greater dangers than these, and if its power can only be sustained by an act of bad faith and injustice, then I say it is indeed in a parlous condition. I believe that the true foundation of its strength lies in justice and in its observance of treaties, and the greatest blow you can possibly strike at the Empire and all it represents, is to be faithless to pledges which you have given, and to bring the enormous power of this country to bear, in an unjust cause, upon a small and defenceless people.

MR. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.): I put a question to-day on the subject of the legal status of slavery in the Niger Coast Protectorate and the Colony of Lagos, which the right hon. Gentleman did not fully answer. I wished to know whether the legal status of slavery was going to be abolished in Lagos, following what had been done in the territory of the Niger Company. The right hon. Gentleman told me yesterday, in answer to a question, that a decree which abolished the status of slavery in the Niger Company's territory would remain in force in the future. I then asked the right hon. Gentleman whether he would follow that up by abolishing the status of slavery in Lagos and in the Niger Coast Protectorate—in, in fact, the whole of Nigeria. I certainly expected a favourable answer, for we remember his emphatic declaration in past years on the subject of slavery. But all he told me was that slavery was not acknowledged in any British Court in either Lagos or the Niger Coast Protectorate. I want a further assurance from him that the legal status shall be abolished for the future throughout the whole of Nigeria.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I think the hon. Member is hard to please, for I gave him an answer which I had hoped he would consider eminently satisfactory. I am quite unable to appreciate the distinction which the hon. Member draws between the state of things which I described as existing in Lagos and that existing in the Royal Niger Company's territory. I am advised that there is absolutely no difference between the state of affairs in Lagos and the Niger Coast Protectorate and

that created by the proclamation of the Royal Niger Company. That, I think, should be a sufficient satisfaction to the hon. Member. At all events, as far as I am at present informed, the condition of things is precisely the same.

MR. BUCHANAN: This is a legal question. Surely the right hon. Gentleman can give me more information?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I am quite unable to give any more information.

MR. BUCHANAN: The right hon. Gentleman is well aware that by an administrative decree issued in 1897 the legal status of slavery was abolished in the territory of the Niger Company, and no such decree has been issued for Lagos and the Niger Coast Protectorate. The legal status is acknowledged in those colonies; we want an assurance that it shall be abolished for the future in the whole of Nigeria, and as he refuses one, I beg to move to reduce the salary of the Colonial Secretary by £100.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

“That item A (Salaries), be reduced by £100, in respect of the Salary of the Secretary of State.”—(Mr. Buchanan.)

MR. J. A. PEASE (Northumberland, Tyneside): The question is really this. Sir George Goldie, on Jubilee Day, 1897, found it necessary to issue a decree abolishing the legal status of slavery throughout the dominions under his control. We want to know whether in Lagos and the territory which has now been brought into the Niger country under the control of the Colonial Office, it is not necessary for a similar decree to be issued in order that the legal status of slavery may be abolished there.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The two hon. Gentlemen who have just spoken are under some misapprehension. Lagos is not going to be brought for the first time under the Colonial Office; it has been so for a great number of years, and during

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the tenancy of office by successive Governments. It is quite true that with regard to the Niger Company's territory Sir George Goldie issued a proclamation abolishing the legal status of slavery. I doubt whether, under the existing state of matters there, the issue of the proclamation practically made much difference. At all events I approve of the proclamation in principle and most certainly I do not intend to make any alteration. The hon. Gentleman who last spoke asked whether I considered it necessary in connection with the transfer of the Niger Company's territory to the Government to make some change in Lagos. As far as my information goes, there is no need for any change. If hon. Members opposite can lay before me any information which justifies the claim that some change should be made in the state of things which has existed for many years in Lagos, I will consider it, and, if possible, give a favourable reply. I hope the hon. Gentleman will not divide the House upon what is really beating at an open door.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): The views of Colonel Lugard, who is the strongest advocate of the abolition of the legal status of slavery, should be taken in account, surely. Could he not be asked if he considers any such step necessary?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I am in close communication with Colonel Lugard, and I can assure the right hon. Baronet there is no difference between us on the point.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: My only suggestion is as to the territories which have not hitherto been under the Colonial Office.

MR. BUCHANAN: I have here the proclamation of the Niger Company, in which they state that the legal status of slavery shall be abolished. Now the territories of the company will for the future form part of Southern Nigeria, and you will have slavery abolished in one part and not abolished in another portion. We want an assurance that it shall no longer be recognised throughout the whole of Nigeria.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) : I understand that under the company's system the legal status of slavery was abolished by proclamation. The right hon. Gentleman apparently thinks it does not exist in Lagos because it is a Crown Colony. It may, however, have existed in Southern Nigeria, and I take it he promises he will look into the matter, and if the legal status of slavery does exist in any part he will see that its abolition is brought about. If that is a correct interpretation of his words I think it is all we are entitled to expect from the right hon. Gentleman at the present moment. The point is an important one : it is necessary that the status of slavery should no longer exist in any part of Her Majesty's dominions ; but after the statement of the right hon. Gentlemen I would not press the matter further now.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfarshire) : I wish to ask a question on the subject of a circular letter recently issued on the question of education in the West Indian Colonies. My attention has been drawn to it by several correspondents, who have pointed out that it involves some change in the system now in force, and some alteration in the mode of dealing with the funds allocated by the Colonies to the subject of education. I am sure that if the right hon. Gentleman can give us any information on the subject it will be gladly received.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN : I shall be most happy to give the information for which the hon. Member asks. With regard to the majority of the West Indian Colonies there has been increased difficulty recently in making the revenue meet the expenditure. We have had to look to the possibility of economy, and in looking at the expenditure I have been struck with the enormous proportion of the cost of two services in most of the Colonies ; one was education and the other medical service. I am very loth to reduce the sum which could be shown to be necessary for the purpose of giving effective education to the people in the West Indies, but I have reason to believe that in many cases this expenditure is wasted, and that a good deal of the education given is not of a sufficiently direct and technical kind. I feel it to be

most desirable that greater attention should be paid to technical instruction, especially as regards tropical agriculture, and I hope that in the course of the next year or two something may be done in this direction. I have, therefore, called the attention of the Governors of the Colonies to these points, and I find that, generally speaking, they are very much inclined to agree with those views. I hope that in the course of the next year or two something may be done, both to reduce the cost of education without diminishing its efficiency, and also to secure proper education in agriculture being given to those who are desirous of taking advantage of it.

MR. BUCHANAN : I cannot quite understand the position taken up by the Colonial Secretary. I am reminded of a speech which he made in the spring of 1885, when he denounced the idea of the legal status of slavery being recognised in the mainland strip off the Island of Zanzibar. I think we have a right to claim from him, now that he is in a position of authority and responsibility, that he shall carry out in practice what, when in Opposition, he advocated in principle. Unless he is prepared to give us a promise that he will issue a proclamation in Lagos and Southern Nigeria, should it be found on inquiry to be necessary, I shall be forced to trouble the House with a division on this subject.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN : I really think that the hon. Gentleman presses me unfairly. I imagine the hon. Gentleman's object is to punish me for having in the course of the last Administration pressed upon the Government the abolition of the legal status of slavery in a totally different district and on a totally different subject. I am perfectly prepared to stand by anything I said then, and I am personally in favour of extending that principle wherever it is possible. In the particular case to which the hon. Gentleman has again and again called my attention, I have again and again replied that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there is absolutely no necessity for the course he proposes. There is no recognition of the legal status of slavery in this country. When the hon. Gentleman was on this side of the

House, and there was a Government in power to which he was friendly, he made no suggestion to them that any alteration should be made in the state of things in Lagos or the Niger Coast Protectorate. That justifies me in assuming that no such change is necessary. The only pledge I can give the hon. Gentleman is, that if he will give me evidence that I have been misinformed, and that there is a distinction between the state of things in Lagos and the Niger Company's territories which requires alteration, I will give to any representation of the kind my most favourable consideration.

Question put, and negatived.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

CLASS I.

2. £209,705, to complete the sum for Rates on Government Property.

Mr. HAZELL (Leicester): I desire to call attention to the salary of the Treasury Valuer for the inspection of rates, which has risen from £500 to £1,200. The position of this gentleman has been described by the Secretary to the Treasury, in a speech he made in 1893, as practically a sinecure, inasmuch as the assessment, when once fixed, does not increase much, and the number of valuations from year to year change to a very small extent. I shall be glad if the right hon. Gentleman will explain his statement of 1893.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): In 1893 I was perfectly justified in what I said, but since the present Government came into office we have paid rates on the same scale as private owners. We are paying rates on quite a different footing, and the work of the Treasury Valuer has very greatly increased.

Mr. CALDWELL, (Lanark, Mid): With regard to the amount paid in rates, I find that the amount which England has received is very much in excess in propor-

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tion to Scotland and Ireland. I think the Government should give an Instruction that the same principle should be applied with regard to the public buildings in those countries as is applied in England.

Mr. HANBURY: With regard to the rating in Scotland, the hon. Gentleman must remember that the Government buildings in Scotland are much fewer than in London, but the principle which is applied, I can assure him, is exactly the same.

Mr. CALDWELL: Before you came to value Government property in the same way as private property, you had some system of contribution to the rates, and under the system you made a contribution to the Metropolitan Fire Brigade of £10,000, because it was thought that the Government were not paying their full contribution. That should not now continue, because the moment the Government give the full contribution, the Fire Brigade is not entitled to the £10,000.

Mr. HANBURY: With regard to that £10,000 for the Fire Brigade, that has been going on since 1894, when we first began this contribution to the rates, and before then; but it is part of a larger question, the question of local rating, which is now being inquired into by a Committee; and until that question is dealt with, I do not think it is wise to remove this £10,000 from the Vote.

Vote agreed to.

[Mr. STUART-WORTLEY, Sheffield, Hallam, in the Chair.]

CLASS II.

3. £6,900, to complete the sum for Privy Council Office.

4. Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That a sum, not exceeding £27,594, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the salaries and expenses of the Charity Commission for England and Wales, including the Endowed Schools Department."

Mr. HAZELL pointed out that under this Vote there was one Commissioner with a salary of £1,200, and five Assistant Commissioners at £500 and £800 a year. The total staff of these gentlemen consisted of one clerk and a boy. He desired to know what the gentlemen did for their salaries, and begged leave to reduce the vote by £1,000.

Motion proposed, and Question proposed—

"That a sum, not exceeding £26,594, be granted for the said service."—(Mr. Hazell.)

MR. GRANT LAWSON (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) said that under the new education scheme that would shortly come into force some of these items would disappear from the Vote.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

5. £28,405, to complete the sum for Civil Service Commission.

6. £39,407, to complete the sum for Exchequer and Audit Department.

7. £4,912, to complete the sum for Friendly Societies Registry.

8. £14,400, to complete the sum for Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues, &c., Office.

MR. BUCHANAN: Of course at this time of night I do not propose to detain the House at any length. But there is a

subject to which I wish to call attention. Within the past two years the Office of Woods and Forests have resumed the practice of selling Crown rights in salmon fishings in the seas adjoining Scotland. The Secretary of the Treasury will recollect that when this subject was brought up in the year 1888 a promise was given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, now the First Lord of the Admiralty, that a Committee should be appointed to examine into the subject. As a consequence the Crown rights in salmon fishings in the seas adjoining Scotland ceased to be sold until the year 1896, but since then two such rights have been sold. I wish to get from the Secretary to the Treasury some explanation why this practice has been resumed after having been discontinued for so many years in consequence of the strong expression of opinion made in this House in the year 1888. The only answer I have been able to get has been that the sales have only been made in exceptional cases. But we can easily understand how any case can be made to be exceptional. What we insisted upon in 1888, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer at the time acknowledged the justice of our demand, was that these were valuable public rights which should not be alienated from the public, and that the Office of Woods and Forests should restrict itself to dealing with them from year to year. I hope we shall get some assurance from my right hon. friend that no further sales of these rights will take place until the House has had another opportunity of examining into the matter and expressing an opinion upon it.

MR. HANBURY: I do not think that any pledge was given that no sales should take place under any circumstances. Undoubtedly a promise was given that a Committee should be appointed to inquire into the whole subject, and that until the Committee had reported no further sales should take place. The Committee did report in 1890 or 1891, and they suggested that a system of licences should be established. The experiment was tried, but it broke down. I understand the hon. Gentleman complains that certain sales have since taken place. I do not think he is quite correct in representing me as having stated that these sales took place in exceptional circumstances. What I did say was, that the only sales which

so far as I am aware had taken place were sales in cases in which our rights to these fisheries were, to say the least, extremely doubtful; that is to say there would have been great difficulty in establishing our rights, and, under, those circumstances, we parted with them.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR: I do not think it is very creditable to the Government that it should have adopted such a course. The Committee was appointed in consequence of there having been some very large sales; fishings to the value, I believe, of some £30,000 had been parted with during the preceding six or seven years. It was in consequence of the alarm caused by the policy of the Government in parting with these valuable rights that the matter was brought under the notice of the House, and I do suggest it is not unreasonable that there should be a certain amount of anxiety as to whether the Government are now returning to their old policy, which was condemned by this House.

MR. HANBURY: We are only selling them in cases in which our rights are doubtful.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR: Well, we want an assurance that the policy approved by the House will not be departed from.

MR. CALDWELL: I have a distinct recollection that when this matter was brought before the House a pledge was given that there should be no more sales of Crown rights in salmon fisheries. We now find sales are being made, and, so far as I can understand, those rights are being parted with for a mere bagatelle. Surely it would be better to keep them for what they are worth.

MR. LABOUCHERE: I never heard anything more thoroughly immoral in my life. Here is a Government holding certain properties to which they say they think they have no title, and so they turn them over for a consideration to some unfortunate person. Were these people

told of the doubts as to the validity of the Crown title?

MR. HANBURY: Yes, they thoroughly understood it.

MR. LABOUCHERE: I do not understand such conduct. If the Government had a doubtful title they should keep the property rather than sell it to other people. I suppose the real explanation is that they handed it over for a sum of money in order to avoid the odium of keeping the public off these fisheries. They preferred to transfer the trouble to private proprietors. We profess to be a moral nation, and I think that we should signify our objection to an immoral act of this character by dividing the Committee upon the Vote.

Vote agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: In moving to report progress I wish to say that there are two Supplementary Estimates—one for the Government of the Niger, and the other for the Incorporated Law Society, which it will be necessary to bring in. Under the Standing Orders it is obligatory that any new Supplementary Estimates shall be brought in two days before the close of Supply. I do not propose to ask the Committee to take these to-night, but I have to point out that they must be taken on Monday night. I hope that hon. Members will therefore assist us on that night in conforming with this rule.

Committee report progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

In pursuance of the Order of the House of the 17th day of this instant July, Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned accordingly at a quarter after One of the clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

*Monday, 31st July 1899.***PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.****BRADFORD TRAMWAYS AND IMPROVEMENT BILL.**

Reported, with Amendments.

LONDON, WALTHAMSTOW, AND EPPING FOREST RAILWAY (No. 2) BILL.Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.**DERWENT VALLEY WATER BILL.**Read 3^a, with the Amendments; further Amendments made. Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.**CITY AND BRIXTON RAILWAY BILL.****GATESHEAD AND DISTRICT TRAMWAYS BILL.****WEST METROPOLITAN RAILWAY BILL.**Read 3^a, with Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.**BELFAST CORPORATION BILL.**Read 3^a, with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.**WESTON-SUPER-MARE GRAND PIER BILL [H.L.] §1**

Returned from the Commons agreed to.

GODALMING CORPORATION WATER BILL.**LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY (NEW RAILWAYS) BILL.****SHEFFIELD CORPORATION MARKETS BILL.**

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

MOSS SIDE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (TRAMWAYS) BILL [H.L.]**RENFREW BURGH AND HARBOUR EXTENSION BILL [H.L.]****STRETTFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (TRAMWAYS) BILL [H.L.]**

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.

VOL. LXXV. [FOURTH SERIES.]

WESTON-SUPER-MARE, CLEVELAND AND PORTISHEAD TRAMWAYS COMPANY (LIGHT RAILWAY) EXTENSIONS) BILL [H.L.]**WITHINGTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (TRAMWAYS) BILL [H.L.]**

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.

BURGH POLICE (SCOTLAND) PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.Read 3^a (according to Order), and passed.**ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 20) BILL.**Amendments reported (according to Order), and Bill to be read 3^a To-morrow.**RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.****COLONIAL LOANS.**

Financial Returns as to Colonies, &c., to which it is proposed to advance loans under the Colonial Loans Bill, 1890.

BOARD OF TRADE (LABOUR DEPARTMENT) (WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR).

Report relating to changes in rates of wages and hours of labour in the United Kingdom in 1898, with statistical tables.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

Forty-third Report of the Civil Service Commissioners.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (RULES).

Rule, dated 20th July, 1899, under the Land Law (Ireland) Acts.

STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS.

Report by the Chief Labour Correspondent of the Board of Trade on the strikes and lock-outs of 1898; with statistical tables.

Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACT, 1890 (METROPOLITAN IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES).

Order of the Secretary for the Home Department permitting further modifica-

tions in the London (Churchway, Saint Pancras) Improvement Scheme, 1895; laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PETITIONS.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS BILL.

Petition for amendment of; of Bristol and District Grocers and Provision Dealers Association; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

SMALL HOUSES (ACQUISITION OF OWNERSHIP) BILL.

Reported from the Standing Committee, with further Amendments; the Report of the Amendments made in Committee of the Whole House and by the Standing Committee to be received To-morrow; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 187.)

AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION (IRELAND) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND (Lord ASHBOURNE): My Lords, in asking your Lordships to accord a Second Reading to this Bill, I present for your acceptance a measure which has been before the public in Ireland, and to which the public opinion of Ireland has been addressed, for a considerable time. The Bill and its provisions have been discussed by the Press, and it is, I think, regarded as an interesting and important measure calculated to promote the material prosperity of that country. I, myself, entertain no doubt that the measure will develop and foster the resources of Ireland, and by that means work out its material prosperity. I would naturally and reasonably expect that the expenditure which is contemplated under this Bill would be largely reproductive expenditure; that is to say, that it would so foster the industries and the resources of that country, and the habits of thrift of the people, as to soon produce a return which may fairly be called reproductive. The Bill comes to your Lordships accredited by a close criticism and examination in the House of

Commons, where, speaking generally and broadly, I may say the Bill was most favourably received on all sides. On none of its stages was it challenged in principle. There was no Division taken against its introduction, or against the Second or Third Reading. Some of its clauses were criticised, but I think I am entitled to say that it passed through the ordeal of the House of Commons and the examination in the Standing Committee in a way which clearly indicates that it was framed in a manner which, in the opinion of all competent judges, was likely to result in benefit to Ireland. The objects of the Bill are to promote, foster, and encourage agriculture and all the kindred industries that are connected with that great pursuit, and also to promote, foster, and encourage technical education. I need not tell your Lordships, for I know there are many here who are closely connected, either by family, property, study, or official life with Ireland, that Ireland is very largely an agricultural country, and that anything which tends to improve its agriculture, and to foster and develop the many industries connected with agriculture, must have a great effect in the development of the resources of the country. Nor is it necessary for me to inform your Lordships that there are many parts of Ireland which lend themselves most favourably and encouragingly to the fostering of fisheries. I do not see why the sea fisheries round the coast of Ireland should not be fostered so that they could do great good to the inhabitants of Ireland. This is a matter which has attracted great attention for many years past. People connected with other countries are acquainted with the value of the fisheries in the neighbourhood of the Irish coast, and it is important that the Irish people themselves should be encouraged to work those fisheries. With regard to technical education, the people in Ireland yield to none in intelligence, in quickness of wit, and in the power of adapting their keen intelligence to everything that goes to learning and acquiring a knowledge of what is called technical education. We have not, however, had, up to the present moment, as much to encourage and develop technical education as was desired, but this Bill makes a very large and substantial advance in that direction, and I am sure there is not one of your Lordships who will not look with

pleasant anticipation to the prospect of an increase in technical education in Ireland which may result from this Bill. We have an example of what can be done in Ireland to foster and develop the great industry of agriculture and all the kindred industries in the working of the Congested Districts Board. I know nothing more encouraging to anyone who takes an interest in the well-being of Ireland, than to read the Reports of the Congested Districts Board. They show solid, interesting, useful work all round. The Board has applied itself, with, I think, a very earnest purpose and a very steady effort, to accomplish the object for which it was created—namely, to encourage the population in the congested districts to adopt better systems of agriculture, to improve the breeding of cattle, to improve the fisheries, and in other ways to develop the poorest and most populated part of the whole of Ireland. The proposals and the idea of this Bill are not new. In the year 1891, on the motion of the late Lord Waterford, a Return was obtained of a Correspondence with the Land Commission, going to show the work which was done by the Commission which might be worked up into an Agricultural Board. As recently as two years ago a Bill, largely on the lines of the one which I am now asking your Lordships to read a second time, was introduced in the House of Commons by my right hon. friend the Chief Secretary. But that Bill was not proceeded with, because it was indicated then that it was desirable, in the first instance, to postpone that Bill until the passing of the Local Government (Ireland) Bill. As the latter Bill has since become an Act of Parliament, this Bill has now been introduced, with the knowledge that there is in Ireland a local government administration with a real and earnest desire to accomplish the great objects that I have shortly indicated. This Bill sets before itself three large and substantial objects, every one of them entitled, I venture to think, to sympathy—firstly, to concentrate in one Department the functions in relation to agriculture and kindred industries that are now scattered amongst five or six Government Departments and offices; secondly, to extend to all Ireland the principles and tasks that are set before themselves by the Congested Districts Board; and, thirdly, to extend, develop, and foster technical edu-

cation. The mechanism that is sought to be applied to carry out these important practical objects is the creation of a Department, composed of the Chief Secretary and a vice-president, who shall be given the power, as is usual in such offices, to sit in Parliament, and they will have the main executive and administrative authority. To them is transferred the power of dealing with diseases of cattle, etc., which are now in the hands of various authorities and Government departments. The Bill also transfers to them everything in Ireland which goes to make up the present technical instruction and education, and also transfers to them and makes them responsible for the work of the fishery inspectors. The list of powers transferred is considerable; but, without going into detail, I think I have indicated in broad outline the nature and the character of the powers and authorities that are so transferred. It is important to note, in connection with the powers transferred, the financial resources that are placed at the disposal of the new Department to work out the results that are intended by the framers of the Bill. In addition to moneys that are voted by Parliament for the keeping up of the Department and other purposes, it is calculated that the total income from all sources at the disposal of the Department will be something between £160,000 and £170,000 a year; and that income is to be applied to aiding and encouraging agriculture and other industries, and also technical education. This is, of course, a very substantial and real sum, and it is made up from the following sources. They will receive £78,000 of the money now paid to the Commissioners of National Education out of the beer and spirit duties. That is selected, because it is an exact analogy to what is done in England and Scotland to provide for the spread of technical education in those countries. It is not intended that this shall result in any loss to the Commissioners of National Education, because Parliament will no doubt make due provision for the money taken away. The Irish Church Fund will provide a sum of £70,000, and £12,000 a year will be received under the Irish Judicature Act of 1887. This latter sum is calculated to be the amount of the saving of the abolished judgeships, and in the various legal Departments in Dublin. A novel clause was introduced into that

Act, providing that any of the savings that could be worked out under that Act should be applied in a way that should be sanctioned by Parliament. Then there is a sum of £6,000 a year, voted money, for the Albert Agricultural and Dairy Training Department at Glasnevin, and for the Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute; one gets £4,000, and the other £2,000. That works out to a total of £166,000. The Department to whom the duties are so transferred, and to whom these moneys are so devoted, will not be left to its own unaided intellect to carry out the duties which are cast upon it; because it will be aided, and it is contemplated that it should be aided, by the advice and assistance of certain popular bodies. Three of them are called into existence. There is, first, a Council of Agriculture; then there is an Agricultural Board, and a Board of Technical Instruction. The clauses in relation to those bodies are rather long, and I do not think it is necessary for me to read them, because it will be found on reference that they are bodies that are to a large extent popularly elected. I may as well state, as an instance of that, that the Council of Agriculture itself will consist of the following members:—Two persons to be appointed by the county council of each county (other than a county borough) in each province; and a number of persons resident in each province equal to the number of counties (exclusive of county boroughs) in the province, to be appointed by the Department with due regard to the representation on the council of any agricultural or industrial organisations in the province. The Agricultural Board is naturally a much smaller body, and will be constituted as follows: Two persons to be appointed by the provincial committee of each province, and four persons to be appointed by the Department. The Board of Technical Instruction, as will be seen at a glance on reference to Clause 10, is to be composed of a considerable number of persons appointed and elected by popular authority, and of four persons to be appointed by the Department. These bodies have very wide and important duties. The money is proposed to be divided in the following manner. The sum of £55,000 per annum will be devoted to technical instruction, and it is intended that the portion allotted to the county

boroughs shall be administered by the local authorities, subject to the approval of the Department. It will be found that very substantial powers with reference to the distribution of the whole fund for technical instruction are given to the Board. The sum of £10,000 a year is to be given for the assistance and development of sea fisheries, and the remainder is given for agriculture and other industries of a rural character, and also sea fisheries. Many people have said that they would like to see the funds larger; but I am afraid that it is a common Irish desire, and I, myself, as an Irishman, always feel an intelligent sympathy with the suggestions on the subject of fair expenditure in reference to Ireland. These sums, contrasted with what has been done by other Departments and in other countries, are very large and considerable, and if properly applied can work out very great and beneficent results. The Department will be assisted by the two Boards I have mentioned in their several spheres, and, although the executive and administrative authority, in reference to the matters I have referred to, is vested in the Department, the two Boards—the Agricultural Board and the Board of Technical Instruction—have wide powers of approval and dissent. Their functions are primarily of an advisory character, but they have real influence and real power, as the concurrence of one or the other Board is required in most cases of their expenditure. A rating power of a limited character is given to county councils and to urban district councils, and thus it may be stated, and I think it is a wise provision, that, as a general rule, no money is to be spent by the Department on any local object without some contribution from local sources. A moderate power of rating is given for that purpose, and no doubt the Department will be able to see that the local rating authority exhibits an intelligent interest in what they suggest, by coming forward with a moderate contribution to aid in the proposals they present to the Department as worthy of their acceptance. There are other clauses in the Bill, but I think I have mentioned the main objects of the measure in broad outline. I hope I have done so in sufficient detail and sufficient clearness to enable your Lordships to understand them, and I earnestly trust that the Bill, when it becomes law,

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as I hope it will within a very few days, will achieve the good results we all anticipate from it.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^a."—(*The Lord Ashbourne.*)

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: My Lords, I do not think I need apologise to your Lordships for trespassing on your indulgence on the present occasion, for I venture to think I was the first person who pointed out the absolute necessity for creating a Board of Agriculture for Ireland similar to that proposed in the Bill which is now before your Lordships. I advocated the establishment of this Board, in a speech I delivered five years ago at Portadown, in order to develop the resources of the country which at the present moment are undeveloped, and which can only be developed by means of a system of instruction of a technical character. I ventured to point out on that occasion what should be the duties of the Board, and the great advantages which, in my humble opinion, would accrue were such a Board created. Therefore, I need hardly say that I rejoice most sincerely in seeing a measure introduced somewhat on the lines which I indicated five years ago, and which my noble and learned friend has informed us will in all probability be the law of the land in a very short time. I am convinced that if this measure is supported and taken up by the Irish people as it ought to be, we shall see an entire change in Ireland, and in certain parts of the districts which are now poor we shall see, if I may use the term, a reign of prosperity. In dealing with this question, I should like to point out to your Lordships, as I have often done before, that, although Ireland may appear to be a small island on the map, there are, in reality, several Irelands in it. We have, in the north-east, the prosperous and industrious city of Belfast. In the counties in the south of Ireland there are grazing lands of an excellence almost unknown in England; while in the poorer districts on the west and south coast there exists a state of pauperism which has been alleviated to a very great extent by the efforts of the Congested Districts Boards, but which I think this Bill will go a long way to still further

alleviate. You must remember that, from whatever point of view we regard Ireland, she must be considered as a poor country as compared to England. Except in the north-east, to which I have alluded, Ireland has no great industries, and, as the noble and learned Lord has told us, her main industry is agriculture. Consequently, we should do everything in our power to enable Ireland to make the most of her chief industry, and in that way to improve her own position and also her relations with England. Holding these views, and recognising that this measure must do a great deal to develop the resources of the country, I need hardly tell your Lordships that I shall do all in my power to enable the Bill to become law as soon as possible, and I shall endeavour, in Ireland, to prove to the people of that country that it is in their interests, and in the interests of the country itself, that they should make the Act a success. I am sure my noble and learned friend will believe me when I say that any criticisms I may make on the measure will be made in no unfriendly spirit, but rather with a desire to make the Bill a thoroughly useful and practical one, and one which in years to come may be looked back upon by the people of Ireland as the turning point, or, I may say, the starting point in their career. I shall not give my own opinions only; I shall give the opinions of gentlemen with far greater experience than myself. I have only this morning returned from Ireland, having had an opportunity of spending a week in Belfast, where I invited suggestions and hints from gentlemen whose names are household words in connection with all efforts to promote the welfare and prosperity of Ireland. The first point to which I would allude is the amount of money to be granted to the proposed Board. I sympathise most sincerely with my noble and learned friend when he states that he is always anxious to see money from England pour into Ireland. I endorse that view, and consequently I should like to have seen a larger sum placed at the disposal of this Board. As far as I can gather, the amount the Board will have at their disposal, including the amount voted and now used by the Congested Districts Board, will be about £230,000 a year. My noble friend thinks that is a large and substantial sum. I confess that I should like to

have seen it larger. We have to cope with other countries, and where competition is very keen we ought to be furnished with every advantage, and one of the greatest advantages is the sinews of war. Let us compare the position of Ireland as an agricultural country with that of other agricultural countries. The sum proposed to be voted to the Board of Agriculture is £230,000 a year, or at the rate of 1s. per head. Let me turn to Hungary. For agriculture alone the sum of £1,700,000 is given, but in addition to that, £1,800,000 is given to industries, making a total sum for the two purposes of £3,500,000 a year, or 3s. 9d. a head. In Austria £915,000 a year is given for agriculture alone, or 10d. per head; but, with the amount given for industries added, the total is £1,550,000 a year, or 1s. 6d. per head. These sums are made up by local contributions. I will not weary your Lordships with further statistics, but Switzerland has the largest grant of all, and Belgium, Berlin, France, and Bavaria all follow the same principles as those I have quoted. It will therefore be seen that the sum of £230,000 for agriculture and industries in Ireland is not by any means a large or exorbitant one. I know the difficulties of the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and I sympathise with him in not desiring to give more; but I hope evidence will prove that he or his successors will be justified in increasing this sum, and that they will find that the money will be of a reproductive character. I trust that, after this Bill has had an opportunity of working, Ireland will be in a position to contribute considerably more to the general British Exchequer than she has been able to in the past. I wish to say a few words with regard to the establishment or constitution of this Board, and I note that in the constitution of this Board it is proposed that the Chief Secretary should be the president. My friends in Ireland whom I have consulted do not approve of this suggestion, and I agree with them. I would not say one word derogatory of my right hon. friend the present Chief Secretary. I think if he were going to be the permanent Chief Secretary we should be glad to see him at the head of this Board, but we object to the principle of the Chief Secretary, whoever he may be, being at the head of the Board of Agriculture and Industries. We object to it on this ground. If the

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Chief Secretary is the head of the Board, it must be, and will be, considered an offshoot of Dublin Castle. As it will be the most important Board in Ireland, it should be presided over by a Minister of Cabinet rank in the House of Commons, responsible to Parliament and to nobody else. England is not so dependent on Agriculture as Ireland, and yet you have a Cabinet Minister as President of the English Board of Agriculture, who is responsible to no one but the Prime Minister, and is, therefore, responsible only to Parliament. I cannot but think, and my view is shared by a great many of those who are thoroughly conversant of Irish affairs, that the mere fact of the Department not being presided over by a President, will act very detrimentally to it in the future, and will not give that confidence in the creation and the work of the Board which would be the case if it had a gentleman presiding over it of equal rank with the President of the English Board of Agriculture. If the Chief Secretary, as President, is to exercise supremacy over the Board, if his supremacy is to be real, there is no independence for this Board, which will be merely, as I have said, an offshoot of Dublin Castle, and will inspire no confidence, as it will be considered to be a subordinate Board, and under what is called the Castle influence. On the other hand, if the Chief Secretary is to be merely the nominal head, why, in order to allow the Chief Secretary to be the nominal head, are you to diminish what ought to be the popularity of the Board, by taking away from it that confidence which ought to exist, but which will not exist if you have the Chief Secretary at the head? It is possible that you will have a very strong Chief Secretary and a very strong Vice-President. If a difficulty arises, what is to happen? The Vice-President must naturally go to the wall. That cannot happen in England. You will understand why it is that we feel that a Board of this importance should be presided over, as in England, by a Minister of Cabinet rank, responsible directly to Parliament and to nobody else. As I have said before, if the present Chief Secretary held that position permanently, we should be very glad to see him the permanent head of the Department, but you must remember that this Bill is not intended to come into effect until April next. I do not suppose the present

Government can stay in office more than two years longer, and it does seem to me rather hard that the Chief Secretary, who thoroughly deserves to reap the reward of his efforts, should be placed at the head of the Board, when he will be so soon succeeded by somebody else who may not increase, but, perhaps, diminish, the prestige of that Board. In Clause 6, I see that it is the intention of the Government to employ a secretary and two assistant-secretaries—one in respect of agriculture, and the other in respect of technical education. I have discussed this clause closely with my friends in Ireland, and we are somewhat in the dark. We should like a little explanation as to the position which these two assistant-secretaries are to hold. I gather that they are intended, one for the purpose of disseminating technical education from an industries point of view, but I am at a loss to understand what their position will be. The Chief Secretary, in the Committee stage of this Bill, said, in the House of Commons, speaking upon an Amendment :

“He could not see his way to accept the Amendment, having regard to the fact that the administrative capacity of the officers was so important an element when considering their election.”

And, later on, he says :—

“A large part of the duties will be administrative, and a man might be well able to do that, and might not have the whole of the qualities which would be considered necessary in an expert.”

My friends in the north of Ireland and myself differ from the Chief Secretary on this question. We do not consider that these gentlemen need have administrative powers. We are of opinion, considering the enormous importance of the duties entrusted to them, that they ought to be experts in the education of the people. To our minds, it is absolutely necessary that the very best men that can be obtained should be appointed to disseminate this knowledge. The responsibilities cast upon these gentlemen will be very great indeed, and, consequently, to discharge those duties, the very best men should be selected. Of course, we recognise that the services of the very best men cannot be obtained unless they are provided with very large salaries. My friends in the north of

Ireland would not consider even £1,500 a year too much to be paid to these gentlemen, provided you get the best men that can be obtained. In other countries the very best men are appointed, and paid large salaries, and I do not think we ought to grudge the money necessary to obtain the services of the very best men. To have these duties properly discharged, the men appointed should be experts. They will have to develop the resources of the country, which at the present moment are not sufficiently developed. I would not say one word detrimental of any official, because I have the highest opinion of them ; but I do not think an official, no matter what his capacity may be, is the class of person to discharge these duties. He has not had practical experience in making experiments. He has had no opportunity of dealing with questions of a tentative character. Moreover, the officials, whoever they may be, would be all tainted with the Castle brush. Let me point out what the duties of the experts are. Their duties are to study closely the industries of those different parts of Ireland to which I have alluded, and which require the greatest attention and knowledge. There is no part of Ireland, no matter how poor, but, if the details of this measure are properly discharged, will not have the opportunity of bettering its present position. By that I mean that they have industries in all parts of Ireland which, if properly cultivated and properly ministered to, should do something to supply some article which at the present moment England buys from foreign countries. Let me turn to the poorer districts. The poorer districts have the opportunity of supplying a demand for which England annually pays an enormous sum to foreign countries. I refer to the supply of eggs. I have not got statistics of the money paid last year, but I have the Return for 1897. In that year, England paid no less than £4,356,849 for foreign eggs imported into this country. That is an industry which should be cultivated in Ireland. Ireland should be able to produce a large proportion of those eggs which at the present moment are bought from the foreigner ; and, if Ireland were taught to produce them, I do not hesitate to say that England would gladly buy the eggs from Ireland instead of obtaining them from the foreigner. The egg industry, to a rich country like England, may seem a paltry matter to talk about, but an

industry which might bring several millions a year into Ireland is a very important item to that country. I was told yesterday, by a practical friend of mine, that he himself had seen at Dieppe a train containing nothing but eggs brought from the furthestmost part of Italy and consigned to London. It would be necessary for the people of Ireland to be instructed by experts as to the manner in which those eggs can be supplied. They should be taught, in the first place, to improve their breeding of fowls; and, in the second place, when they have collected their eggs, they should be instructed as to what to do with them, whether to send them off at once to England or retain them; and, if they retain them, how to preserve them so that they would arrive in England in an eatable condition. With regard to grazing land, I think Ireland has advantages of dairying such as are unknown in England. Great strides have been made in improving matters connected with dairying, by the untiring efforts of my good friend, Mr. Horace Plunkett, than whom no man has done more in this direction to promote the welfare of Ireland. He has started co-operative creameries, which are already doing enormous work, but a great deal more requires to be done. In the year 1897, England paid very nearly £16,000,000 for foreign butter, and nearly £2,500,000 for margarine, all imported from abroad. England could get a large portion of its supply from Ireland if the system of dairying in that country was improved. Denmark is a very poor country. It has a population of only half that of Ireland, and yet no less a sum than £6,748,000 has been paid to Denmark by this country for butter alone during the past year. There is another very important industry with which I, myself, am to a certain extent connected. Your lordships know well that the linen industry is one of the most important industries in Ireland, and to make linen the very best flax is required. I live in a part of the country which years ago produced an enormous amount of flax, but I am sorry to say that a great deal of that has disappeared in later years. In 1864, no fewer than 130,000 acres in Ireland were under flax; but, in 1898, that number had been reduced to 34,889 acres. That means that the great linen mills in Belfast and the surrounding districts are obliged to buy their flax from abroad. I

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know that one of the explanations of this decrease is that flax takes so much out of the land that it is seven years before another crop can be obtained; but I contend that the experts to whom I have alluded can prove, from chemical experiments, that the land can be so treated that it can grow a good crop the following year. When I tell your Lordships that the price of flax varies from £90 to £6 a ton, it will be seen how necessary it is that good flax should be grown; and it can only be grown by the best instruction of a technical character being given to the owners of the land. The egg industry, the dairy industry, and the flax industry have, to a certain extent, languished in Ireland, and in those three industries alone England paid, in 1897, no less a sum than £25,500,000 to foreign countries. Surely, when you see this large sum going to other countries, it is a proof of the fact that it is absolutely necessary that something should be done to develop the resources of Ireland. These articles could be produced in Ireland, but they have not been produced because Ireland has not received proper education in their production. I am constantly told by people in this country that the people of Ireland do not support this Bill, and that Mr. Dillon seems to have done his utmost to prevent the Bill passing through the House of Commons. I say that Mr. Dillon, in this matter, does not represent the views of any lovers of Ireland. Mr. Dillon, in the manner in which he has approached this Bill in its various stages through the House of Commons, has been willing to wound, yet afraid to strike. I am glad to think that he has not succeeded in inducing the Chief Secretary to drop this measure. I have yet to learn what policy has ever been originated by Mr. Dillon which has tended to promote the general prosperity of Ireland. On the contrary, he has kept aloof from everything we have done to promote the prosperity of Ireland. He kept aloof from the Recess Committee, from the Irish Agricultural Association, from the Industries Association, and from the Tourist Development Association, and in future he will be handed down to posterity as the man who is responsible for the most disastrous policy ever adopted in Ireland—namely, the Plan of Campaign. At the time I sketched, some five years ago, what should be the policy of the Government in regard to this Bill, Mr. Dillon had just addressed

a gathering within a few miles of Portadown, where I was speaking, and he predicted that if the Tories ever got back into power before Ireland received Home Rule, there would be one of the biggest land agitations that had yet been seen. That is the policy of Mr. Dillon, which I think accounts for his endeavouring to damage this Bill in another place. He knows that if the Bill is taken up by the Irish people, as I have every reason to think it will be, there will be no more agitation in Ireland, and then Mr. Dillon's occupation, like that of Othello, will be gone for ever. I believe this measure will be the death-knell of agitation, and the commencement of a new era for Ireland. I believe that you will find that this measure will be taken up by the Irish people, who are sick of agitation. They require to be told that, if they receive assistance from the British Government, they must assist themselves; and no better words of advice were ever given to the agricultural classes in Ireland than were given by Mr. Horace Plunkett, when he said:—

"Self-help is required by mutual help."

That should be the motto of the Irish people when they take advantage of this Bill. I believe, as I have said, that this will prove the starting point in a new career for Ireland. I believe, by teaching the people, you will enable them to supply England with goods which England now buys from abroad. Once that money is diverted into Irish channels, Ireland will become a prosperous and contented country, and this Bill will be looked upon as having opened up a new vista to that country, and made her a true and loving sister isle.

THE EARL OF MAYO: My Lords, I rise to give this Bill my most hearty support. It has been introduced in response to a demand from all classes and all creeds of the Irish people. I will put aside all questions with regard to Mr. Dillon, and what he said upon this Bill, and congratulate the Government on having listened to the demands which have been made. The main scheme of this Bill will be found in the Report of

the Recess Committee, and that Committee consisted of representatives of all creeds and of every class and of every shade of politics in Ireland, and it was formed and presided over by my old friend, Mr. Horace Plunkett, who I am sure everyone was sorry was not in his place in the House of Commons to see his many years' labour brought at last to a successful conclusion by the introduction of this Bill. This Committee inquired into the agriculture, the industries, and technical education in Ireland, into foreign competition as against Irish produce, and the ways in which State-aid was granted on the Continent to agricultural and technical education. When that Committee issued its Report, it was supported by the Chambers of Commerce in Ireland, by the Corporations of all the principal towns, and by many Boards of Guardians. In fact, I know of no public body in Ireland that condemned the Report. Two years ago, the Chief Secretary introduced a Bill in which he endeavoured to meet the demand for a Board of Agriculture in Ireland, but that Bill did not embody the elective principle recommended by the Recess Committee, nor were its financial conditions satisfactory to Ireland. The Chief Secretary was in no way to blame, because he had no constituencies to go to, and the Bill was dropped. The Local Government (Ireland) Act of last session paved the way for this Bill, because it created constituencies, and from those constituencies is formed the Council of Agriculture, from which we have the Board of Agriculture, the administrative body under this Bill. The elective principle is what commends the Bill to us in Ireland. We approve of it also because this Board of Agriculture will have a large voice in the financial expenditure. The Chief Secretary is to be president of the new Department, with a vice-president under him with a seat in Parliament. I should have liked to see a Minister of Agriculture, responsible only to Parliament, for this great Department, independent entirely of the Chief Secretary. I do not wish in any way to say anything personal, but the Chief Secretary for Ireland is, and always has been, President of the Local Government Board, the Board of Works, and, indeed, of so many Boards in Ireland, that one would really think he had quite enough to do.

LORD ASHBOURNE: He is not President of the Board of Works.

THE EARL OF MAYO: Then I stand corrected on that point. However, the Chief Secretary has created this Department, and is anxious to be its president, and he has carried his point. In expressing this opinion, I am not putting forward merely my own view. This view was expressed by the Recess Committee and by every public board in Ireland with regard to the Bill of 1897, which contained the same provision. For the arguments in favour of the Chief Secretary being president, and of there being a vice-president, you have to refer to the proceedings in the Grand Committee, where the Chief Secretary argued that the new vice-president and himself would have more weight in any future legislation than if the Department was placed under the charge of a Minister, who would necessarily be one of the subordinate Ministers receiving £1,200 a year. Seeing that Ireland is a purely agricultural country, and that the new Department now being created will certainly in the future become a most important Department in that country, I feel, with many others, that there should be a Minister of Agriculture, responsible only to Parliament. You have a Minister of this description in England, which is not a purely agricultural country, and what we ask, without any disrespect to the Chief Secretary, who has carried this measure so successfully through the other House, is that a Minister of Agriculture should also be appointed for Ireland. There must be a Minister of Agriculture in the future if this scheme is to grow. It has been said by some that this Bill creates another Castle Board. In my opinion it absorbs a great many of the Castle Boards, and in so far as it does so it is a reform. The administration of the grant to Science and Art in Ireland is taken over, as also is the grant in aid of Technical Education, and the powers and duties of the Department of Science and Art in relation to the public buildings in Ireland. I take that to mean that the Science and Art Museum in Dublin is taken over by the new body. I feel that we are in this matter entirely cut off from South Kensington, which has the power of lending many valuable and interest-

ing collections to provincial museums, and to the museum in Dublin. If we are entirely cut off from this very useful provision, the artisans, artists, and handicraftsmen in Ireland will suffer; and if the Government can see their way to keep our museum in touch with South Kensington—the finest museum in the world, and containing the finest specimens of art and handicraft that are known—it would be greatly appreciated. I will now pass to the provisions in reference to the fishery inspectors. The whole of the duties of the Fishery Board are transferred to the new Department, and eventually there will be one inspector instead of three. I have not the slightest objection to this, for I consider one inspector quite sufficient. The Bill, however, says that the sum of £10,000 shall be applied for the purpose of sea fisheries. But, as regards inland fisheries, no money is provided, nor are inland fisheries mentioned except in connection with agriculture. Our fisheries in Ireland have got into such a deplorable state, that it was only last May that I had the honour of introducing a deputation to the Lord Lieutenant on the subject, and his Excellency, Lord Cadogan, has promised to appoint a Vice-Regal Commission to inquire into the whole question of the deterioration of inland fisheries and its causes. One would have thought that this Bill would have provided for our fresh water fisheries. In the Grand Committee, the Chief Secretary stated that the case of the fresh water fisheries was already covered, because agriculture was defined as including inland fisheries. You might define agriculture as meaning anything, but to say that agriculture means inland fisheries is a most extraordinary proposition. The definitions of agriculture are in Clause 30, and they include horticulture, forestry, dairying, the breeding of horses, cattle, and other live-stock, and poultry, home and cottage industries, the cultivation and preparation of flax, and inland fisheries. Our inland fisheries are worth to Ireland £1,200,000 per annum, and I would ask your Lordships what chance, amongst this host of objects, will inland fisheries have? They are only entitled to rank with all these objects in any surplus of money which may exist. Every Amendment which was put forward for a grant for fresh-water fisheries was resisted by the Chief Secretary, mainly on the ground

that, if inland fisheries were specially treated by grant, Amendments might be moved for a grant for horse-breeding, etc. When an Amendment was proposed that a Sub-Committee should be appointed, called the Sea and Inland Fisheries Board, the Chief Secretary said :

"It surely was obvious to the Committee that when the inspectors of fisheries were transferred it followed that there would be in the Department a sub-department dealing with this branch of industry. Such a course did not require legislation, but followed naturally."

This follows naturally with regard to sea fisheries, but there is no indication whatever in the Bill that it follows naturally with regard to fresh-water fisheries. I contend that the Department should be enabled to carry out those duties in as effective a manner as formerly, and that in the Bill inland fisheries should not be classed with numerous forms of agriculture, which will result in fresh-water fisheries being neglected altogether, as there will be no money provided for them. I shall move an Amendment to Clause 5 in Committee to allow of the Department making inquiries, experiments, and research, and collecting such information as they may think important in regard to sea fisheries and inland fisheries. I hope Her Majesty's Government will accept that Amendment. I desire to say a few words with regard to the financial aspect of the Bill. The only defect I find is that all the money does not come from Imperial sources, and that the Irish Church Fund is again drawn upon. This is not the time or the place to discuss the claim we have on the Imperial Exchequer, based on the question of Irish financial relations. I for one do not abate that claim one iota, or think we weaken our position by accepting the financial provisions of the Bill. On the contrary, I consider that the provisions make our case stronger. There is one provision in the Bill which I should like to mention. The Department has the power of appearing before the Railway and Canal Commissioners, and any expense incurred may be paid by the Department. I consider this to be one of the most useful provisions in the Bill, because everyone who knows what agriculturists have to suffer owing to the high railway rates will recognise that if this provision is properly carried out it will

prove of the utmost benefit. The Irish agriculturist is at present completely harnessed and overloaded by these railway rates. I will give your Lordships an instance which happened to myself. I ordered some peat moss litter from Portadown to my own station, about eighteen miles from Dublin, the carriage of which was £8. I foresee that this provision, giving the Department power to appear before the Railway and Canal Commissioners, and pay the expenses of that appearance, will be most useful, and I hope the Irish agriculturists and farmers will press the Department to appear before the Commissioners as soon as possible after the passing of this Bill. It is exceptionally pleasant to have to praise an Irish measure, and not to have to divide against the Government upon it, even though we beat them. This Bill, which has passed through its various stages amidst a shower of praises, will, in my opinion, increase the material prosperity of Ireland, and for that reason I give it my hearty support, and I congratulate the Government, and especially the Chief Secretary, upon having brought in a Bill, and carried it so far, which will prove of such great benefit to the people of Ireland.

LORD PLUNKET: My Lords, it was my good fortune to have been invited by my friend, Mr. Horace Plunkett, to join in the movement of which this Bill is the outcome, and in a small part, as his follower, I have had special opportunities of observing how that good man is regarded by the agricultural classes in Ireland. I shall not detain your Lordships by urging upon you the merits of this Bill, and the vital importance of, according, by means of it, all the assistance we possibly can to the agricultural industry of Ireland, which, though it has under many unfortunate circumstances languished, must always provide the main employment for, and sustenance of, the Irish people. I desire to take this opportunity, speaking from my own experience, of giving the honour of the inception of the policy of this measure where that honour is due, and to tell your Lordships that there are peculiarly opportune circumstances surrounding the introduction of this measure which may fairly lead us.

to hope that it will be welcomed with unanimity, and received in a practical spirit to an extent which rarely, if ever before, was accorded to any Act passed for Ireland. When Mr. Horace Plunkett started twelve years ago on his mission of teaching the Irish agriculturists the importance of spontaneous efforts on their part, and the advantage of co-operation, he was considered as an "amiable enthusiast," and failure was very generally predicted for his efforts. But he resolutely pursued his course, addressing lectures here, distributing pamphlets there, pointing out that the technical instruction and supervision given by foreign countries was one of the chief reasons why the Irish farmer was being cut out of the markets of the world. It was weary work enough, at first, particularly as agrarian agitation was rife in the land. But he gathered around him a small band of patriotic Irishmen of all shades of religious and political opinions to help him in what I may call his crusade. Amongst them was the Rev. Father Finlay, a most able and distinguished Irish Roman Catholic clergyman, who very early joined himself to this movement and zealously supported it. Mr. Horace Plunkett succeeded in starting an important agricultural organisation. He formed the Recess Committee, composed of Irishmen of all shades of politics, and he obtained from them a unanimous Report, which, I think, may fairly be said to form the basis of the legislation now before your Lordships. What has struck me most, from my own experience in connection with this subject, is the fact that, though the Irish farmer has generally been found to be suspicious and timid to a degree when he has been individually asked to alter his own bad system of culture—the only one, indeed, which he had ever heard of—when he is associated, as he has been in this movement, with his neighbours, he takes a perfectly different view of the advantages thus offered to him, and is prompt to grasp and carry out the advice he receives. The light which has come from the efforts of the Recess Committee has spread rapidly, and the advantages of improved methods are becoming more and more better known among the farmers of Ireland. There are now over 400 societies, organised by Mr. Plunkett's Committee, all over the land, with over 40,000 members, and these societies have

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helped large numbers of the people to realise what this measure means, and to grasp the fact that it is not formed for the distribution of indiscriminate doles, but rather to back up their own efforts at self-help, and thus assist them to secure again a place in those markets in the world where better instructed and more progressive nations are now supreme. I venture to think the time is opportune for the advantages now offered to them, not only because there exists at the present time a more tranquil disposition in the minds of the Irish people, and a more complete immunity from the curse of agitation, but because the minds of my fellow countrymen have been turned to the practical politics of making their daily lives more prosperous and contented by making more productive the efforts of their daily toil. Therefore, I think we may all hope, not perhaps for immediate success, but for steady and increasing benefits from the passing of this measure, which I feel sure, coupled with the Act which instituted the Board dealing with the congested districts, will greatly help to bring that prosperity to Ireland which it is everyone's wish she should enjoy.

*THE EARL OF ARRAN: I do not intend to trouble your Lordships with a speech, but I should not like this Bill to pass its Second Reading without embracing the opportunity of expressing my hearty satisfaction at its introduction, and my earnest hope that it will do that good to Ireland which its originator intended. I think we should have a little more information, however, upon the point raised by my noble friend, the Marquess of Londonderry—namely, whether it is a wise thing that the Chief Secretary for Ireland should be the head of this Board. As the noble Marquess said, if the present Chief Secretary were always to remain with us we should have no possible objection to his being at the head of that Board, but the fact that the Chief Secretary is here to-day and gone to-morrow, must destroy that continuity of policy which is so useful everywhere, and which in Ireland is more necessary than anywhere else. I do not see how one man, who has not the strength of Hercules, can possibly do all the work which the Chief Secretary has to perform.

I have not gone into figures, but I cannot help thinking that the Council will prove unworkable if this provision is insisted upon. I should like to ask my noble and learned friend, who is in charge of this Bill, whether, under the term "person" in the tenth clause of the Bill, women are included. I ask this because, with the exception of what has been done by the Congested Districts Board, which is comparatively a recent institution, and what has been done by the Earl of Mayo, nearly the whole of the technical instruction given in Ireland has been given by ladies. It was begun and carried out with great success by the nuns over the different parts of Ireland. It has been taken up and carried out by various ladies in the districts in which they reside, and I cannot help thinking that there might be considerable advantage in enabling those ladies to give of their experience on this question. There is another point on which I should like to ask a question. Will the power to raise a poor rate of 1d. in the £ be outside the poor rate as it stands under the Local Government Act and be met by the Agricultural Grant, or will it fall equally on everybody? I am sure no one in Ireland will object to bear their proper share of this additional impost, but I think we should know how the money is to be raised. With these few words, I beg to express the hope that the Bill will pass through your Lordships' House and become law in a few days.

*LORD MORRIS: My Lords, if the Chief Secretary for Ireland had been present I think he would have heard with honest pride the universal chorus of approval of the Bill which now stands for Second Reading. That approval was put into language of an eloquent character by my noble friend behind me (Lord Plunket), who shows that eloquence is hereditary, and that the name he bears is one which is likely to revive, at all events in the Debates in your Lordships' House, a recollection of the race from which he springs. While joining most heartily in the chorus of approval with which the Bill has been welcomed, I must say that I am not carried away by any idea

that there is to be a sudden change in Ireland, and that this Bill is going to bring about an immediate and extraordinary reform in the agricultural industry of the country. The cause of the failure of agriculture in Ireland depends upon circumstances much deeper than anything that could be done by a grant or education. Everyone will admit that the great falling off in the agricultural industry of Ireland has steadily progressed year by year since Free Trade was adopted. In 1846, 7,000,000 acres of Ireland were cultivated—more than one-third of its area. Now, fifty years afterwards, only one-eighth of the area of Ireland is under cultivation. That is not the result of want of education, nor will it ever be repaired by education. But that is no reason why we should not try and improve the present state of affairs. My noble friend, the Earl of Mayo, has rather suggested a short cut by which we can compete with Normandy in the matter of butter—namely, by compelling railway companies to convey goods not at a rate which would repay them, but at a rate which the noble Earl thinks would be satisfactory to himself. I am not a shareholder in railways, because I have long foreseen that an attack would be made, after landed property in Ireland, upon railway property. Railways are not established for philanthropic purposes, but to pay dividends. Few railways in Ireland pay any dividend at all, and the Midland and Great Western seldom pays more than 4 percent. Therefore, to say that railways are to be selected as being the medium by which the west of Ireland, or any part of Ireland, is to be brought into the same proximity with London as Normandy or Dieppe, is equal to saying that you are going to confiscate the railways. The noble Lord the Earl of Mayo said he was pleased that the new Board of Agriculture would have power to appear before the Railway and Canal Commissioners to contest with railways as to the prices they should charge, but I disagree altogether with this provision. At the present moment anyone aggrieved can lodge a complaint. Why should there be an invitation to this Board to spend public money in coercing companies to carry goods at a price which would not be remunerative to them, but which would satisfy my noble friend and enable him to get his peat

moss litter? My noble friend says it is inconsistent not to make a grant to fresh-water fisheries. Sea fisheries are public property, but inland fisheries are private property. If there are to be grants for private property I suppose the State will want a share in that property in return for the grants. My noble friend said he agreed that one inspector would be sufficient. If you go on in the direction to confiscate the inland fisheries no inspector at all will be necessary. I also dissent from the noble Lords who have wished that the Chief Secretary should not be the President of this Board. I am very glad he is to be the President of the Board. The argument that has been used is that Parties will change and so also will the Chief Secretary. But will not the Vice-President change also? If the proposal with regard to the President is considered improper because he will go in and out with the Government, does not this also apply to the Vice-President? I do not think anything will be gained by appointing secretaries at £1,500 a year. Very few of the under-secretaries of the great Departments in England get £1,500 a year. I am in favour of the Bill generally as it stands, and, although I think the benefits to be derived from it have been over-estimated, I shall give my support to the Second Reading.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: My Lords, I am under some apprehension, in rising to say a few words on this Bill, lest I should seem to introduce a discordant note. I welcome the Bill, although I cannot bring myself to believe, like the noble Earl opposite, that it will create a new era in Ireland. I think it will be a very useful Bill, but I agree with what has been said that what we have to look to is self-help. At the same time, that self-help may be supported and strengthened by the action of the new Department. I think that one of the most encouraging things I have seen for a long time—since my connection with Ireland—is the movement set on foot by Mr. Horace Plunkett and his friends, and, so far as I can learn, the societies established by them are really producing successful results, and stimulating the agriculture and industries of that country. Although I think there may be more for the Board of Agriculture in Ireland to do than in England, judging from my experience of the Board of Agriculture in

Lord Morris.

England, I must say that I believe that the power of the Board which is to be set up in Ireland will be very limited. The Board of Agriculture in England has never been able to come up to the expectations of those who advocated it. It has not been able to do much, except deal with diseases of animals, and if there was any justification for a Minister of Agriculture it would be in the most successful operations of Mr. Long in suppressing that terrible disease, hydrophobia. I hope the new Department in Ireland will show the same perseverance and courage in dealing with this disease. It is intolerable that a disease should be allowed to exist, when it can be proved that by sufficient precautions you can prevent it. The noble and learned Lord who has just spoken has truly said that the great change in agriculture in Ireland dated from the introduction of Free Trade, but I would point out that that change has consisted principally in the diminution of the corn area in Ireland. The riches of Ireland in agriculture consist in its extensive pasture land, and there has been a great and marked improvement in the production of cattle. I speak for the county in which I live, and which is mainly dependent on Ireland for the cattle which it fattens, and over and over again I have been told by farmers, with the greatest admiration, of the remarkable improvement which has taken place in Irish cattle. In fact, there are no finer cattle produced anywhere than in Ireland. That shows what can be done in one class of produce, and there is no reason why Ireland should not supply as good dairy produce as any country in Europe. The noble Marquess pointed out with truth that the egg industry is not one to be despised, and that Ireland is a country in which that industry might be increased. Lastly, there is flax culture. I agree with the noble Marquess in regretting the diminution in flax culture; and if the cultivation of flax in the north of Ireland can be revived, it will be of great benefit to that country. As to the contention that the new Department should be under a Minister of Cabinet rank, I consider that would be a very dangerous innovation. I am very glad that the Government has placed the Department under the Chief Secretary. As the noble and learned Lord pointed out, the Vice-President, by this Bill, may sit in Parliament. He will,

no doubt, and will change with the Government. Therefore, in point of fact, no advantage would be derived in placing the Department under a Vice-President. The present Cabinet consists of nineteen members—the largest Cabinet that has ever existed in this country—and to add another would bring it up to twenty. If you go on adding more members you will break down the system of Cabinet Government altogether, and with Cabinets of such a size you run the risk of repeating with respect to the Cabinet the history of the Privy Council, which became so large that a smaller body had to be carved out of it. I object, also, to the principle that is contemplated to be laid down, that no one can be an efficient head of a Department unless he is a member of the Cabinet. I deny that entirely. I am not so well acquainted with all that has been going on in Ireland as to know what is the origin of the very complicated provisions of this Bill, but I am very much struck by the proposal for the creation of a Board to which matters are to be referred by the Minister, and upon which he is to receive their advice. This is another instance of what appears to me to be the commencement of a new system of government. The noble Duke opposite has created a Consultative Committee for the Board of Education, and now you are about to create another Consultative Committee of a more remarkable kind, because the Consultative Committee of the Board of Education is appointed by the Minister himself, but this Consultative Committee is to be appointed by local bodies. I believe this is the first time in our history that we have had an Elective Committee taking part in the administration of one of the Departments of Government. I confess that I prefer to see this new and somewhat daring experiment tried first in Ireland. If it works well there it will no doubt come over to this country, but I do not think it will work well. It is evident that the Bill has large support in Ireland, and therefore it will have a fair chance of success. I sincerely hope it may be more successful than I anticipate it will be.

LORD ASHBOURNE: My Lords, I have listened, as I am sure we all have, with interest to the discussion which has taken place on this Bill. The various

speeches, I think, reflect truly the opinion entertained out of doors. They indicate the feeling which prevails in Ireland, and which found a voice in all parts of the House of Commons. I agree with the noble Earl who has just spoken that it is not wise to expect from any legislative measure that it will at once work a miracle; but this is an honest effort to develop what needs development in Ireland, and to improve agriculture and the fisheries, and to enlarge technical education. If the nation applies itself loyally to co-operate with the intentions of this Bill, there is no reason why the expectations of those who framed it should not find ample realisation. I entirely agree with the views pronounced on the part of the Government with respect to the proposal to put the Chief Secretary at the head of the new Department. It will strengthen the Board, give it greater authority, and give unity to the general administration of the country; and I am glad that this view had the general concurrence of the noble Earl (Lord Kimberley), and of Lord Morris. The administration will be largely left to the Vice-President, who must, with the Chief Secretary, leave office when there is a change of Government. The new Government which will come into office will then have the responsibility of working the mechanism which is called into existence in this Bill. I can see no advantage in endeavouring to make in Ireland a dual system of authority, which would happen if the Vice-President was placed at the head of the Board. It would be an entirely new departure to call into existence a Department which would permeate a great part of the general legislation of Ireland, in reference to which the Chief Secretary would be only in touch as President of the Congested Districts Board, and to deny him a right to take the responsibility of the administration in Parliament. The point raised by the noble Marquess as to the two assistant secretaries is a matter more for Committee. I anticipate that as good men will be obtained for the Assistant Secretaryships as can be secured—a man probably well acquainted with technical education for one, and a man thoroughly acquainted with agricultural affairs for the other. If they wanted expert assistance funds would doubtless be available for

procuring it. My noble friend, the Earl of Mayo, spoke in favour of giving further aid to inland fisheries. The inland fisheries are grasped in the Bill abundantly. I heard with very great pleasure my noble friend, Lord Plunket, take part in the Debate, not only for the valuable observations which he made, but for the manner in which he showed that he can maintain the traditional power of speaking which belongs to his name. I am sure we all heard with sympathy his reference to Mr. Horace Plunkett, with whom we all feel such deep sympathy. We all know the great interest he has taken in this subject, and there is not one of your Lordships who does not wish that he may soon be restored to health. I do not think it desirable at this stage to go into other matters more in detail, but I trust that it will be for the convenience of your Lordships that I should name the Committee stage of the Bill to be taken to-morrow.

*THE EARL OF ARRAN: Will the noble and learned Lord answer my question as to the word "person"?

LORD ASHBOURNE: I will look into it by to-morrow. I have not had my attention directed to the point before.

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES BILL [H.L.]

House in Committee (according to Order); Amendments made; Standing Committee negatived; the Report of Amendments to be received on Thursday next; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 118.)

OYSTERS BILL [H.L.]

Order of the day for the House to be put into Committee read.

*LORD HARRIS: My Lords, I have to ask your Lordships' permission to move
Lord Ashbourne.

that the Order be discharged. I must explain to your Lordships why this is necessitated. Your Lordships referred this Bill to a Select Committee, and in the course of that inquiry their Lordships came to the conclusion that for the authority which had been placed originally in the Bill—namely, the councils of counties and boroughs should be substituted the local district fisheries committees. The intention of the Local Government Board, in introducing the Bill, was to protect, as far as possible, the public health from attack from diseased oysters, and the Board, therefore, selected as the local authorities by which the Bill was to be put into operation the councils of counties and boroughs, which are concerned to some extent with the sanitary matters of their districts. But the Select Committee, to whom the Bill was referred after the Second Reading, came, after a division, to the conclusion that sufficient attention had not been given to the bivalve itself, and decided that this was a matter which concerned primarily the health of the oyster rather than the health of the human being, and on a Division they substituted the Local District Fisheries Committees, which look after the well-being of fish, for the councils of counties, which are concerned with the public health, as the authority in the Bill. The Bill, as amended, went back to the Department concerned for consideration, and, as in duty bound, the Local Government Board consulted the Board of Trade, which is concerned with fisheries, and the Board of Trade advised the Local Government Board, as has also the Irish Office, that the change rendered the Bill impracticable. The main reason which the Board of Trade gave for this view was that in many cases these local district fisheries committees have no jurisdiction in the estuaries where the oyster beds are situated, and that if their authority was extended to those estuaries it would conflict with other authorities who have jurisdiction there. My instructions originally were to give notice of Amendments to reinsert the original words which would have restored the authority to the councils of counties and boroughs, but I have since received instructions from the Local Government Board that, having regard to the lateness of the session, the President does not intend to proceed further with the measure. I therefore have to ask your

Lordships to allow the Order to be discharged.

Moved—

“That the Order to go into Committee be discharged.”—(*Lord Harris.*)

On question, agreed to.

ISLE OF MAN (CUSTOMS) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

***VISCOUNT CROSS:** This Bill is one dealing with the question of the wine duties in the Isle of Man. It is consequent on the financial arrangements which have been recently made, and I beg to move that it be read a second time.

Moved, “That this Bill be read 2^a.”—(*Viscount Cross.*)

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read 2^a accordingly; Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^a Tomorrow.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS BILLS.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

***VISCOUNT CROSS:** My Lords, I have to ask your Lordships to read this Bill a second time to-day. The sale of food and drugs, as your Lordships are aware, is at present regulated by the Act of 1875, and the sale of margarine by the Act of 1887. But, owing to many complaints that a good deal of adulteration is being carried on despite these Acts, the matter was referred for inquiry in 1892 to a Select Committee, which sat for three years. They examined no less than sixty-eight witnesses, and this Bill is founded upon their recommendations. Anyone who reads the Report of that Committee will see that what is required is not so much a great alteration in the

law as an improvement in the administration of the law. The powers which at present exist for the administration of the law should be strictly carried out in future. It is quite clear, as has been shown by the figures which were quoted by the President of the Board of Agriculture, that where repression is vigorous adulteration decreases. I should like to quote these figures to your Lordships. In London in 1887-8 there were 756 samples examined; 142 were found adulterated, or 19 per cent. In 1896-7 there was more vigorous administration of the Acts; 2,038 samples were examined, and 205 found adulterated, which is equal to 10 per cent., as against 19 per cent. If you go to Manchester and Salford you find a still more striking result. The percentage there in 1887-8 was 54, but through most vigorous administration of the Acts the percentage of adulteration had been reduced in 1896-7 to 11 per cent. I hope the House will not think for a moment that this Bill is brought in simply to enact the agricultural part; quite the contrary is the case. The President of the Local Government Board has been approached from Manchester by the Chamber of Commerce, from Liverpool by the Association of Grocers, and from the metropolis by the Butter Association, clearly showing that it is the wish of these great bodies, which have nothing to do with agriculture, that the adulteration of food should be diminished as far as possible, and that the Acts should be properly and vigorously put in force. Briefly, the principles of the Bill are that there shall be no interference with legitimate industry, or with wholesome or valuable articles of food, but that, on the other hand, the law must be put in force and obeyed, and the trades conducted on honourable and honest principles. I do not suppose anyone will dispute the righteousness of those two principles. Therefore, without saying more on the general question, I will explain shortly the various provisions of the Bill. Clause 1 insists that everything imported into the United Kingdom, whether margarine or margarine cheese, or adulterated or impoverished butter, or condensed, separated, or skimmed milk, or any other adulterated or impoverished article of food, shall be conspicuously marked with a name or description, indicating the article that is being imported.

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In order to further protect the consumer the Commissioners of Customs are to have power, in accordance with the directions given by the Treasury, after consultation with the Board of Agriculture, to take such samples of consignments of imported articles of food as may be necessary for the enforcement of the provisions of this clause. Where the Commissioners of Customs take a sample of any consignment in pursuance of such directions they shall divide it into not less than three parts, send one part to the importer and one part to the principal chemist of the Government laboratories, and retain the other part. The second clause gives power to the Local Government Board, if that Board thinks that the matter affects the general interest of the consumer, and to the Board of Agriculture, if that Board thinks that it affects the general interests of agriculture in the United Kingdom, to direct an officer of the Board to procure for analysis samples of any article of food. That relates, of course, solely to the home trade. As I have said, the great fault at the present moment is the want of vigour in the administration of the Acts, and the third clause definitely lays it down that it shall be the duty of every local authority entrusted with the execution of the laws relating to the sale of food and drugs to appoint a public analyst, and put in force, from time to time, as occasion may arise, the powers with which they are invested, so as to provide proper securities for the sale of food and drugs in a pure and genuine condition, and in particular to direct their officers to take samples for analysis. The clause goes on to say that if the Local Government Board, or the Board of Agriculture, after communication with a local authority, are of opinion that the local authority have failed to execute or enforce any of the provisions of the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts in relation to any article, and that their failure affects the general interests of the consumer, or the general interests of agriculture in the United Kingdom, as the case may be, the Board concerned may, by order, empower an officer of the Board to execute and enforce those provisions, or to procure the execution and enforcement thereof, in relation to any article of food mentioned in the Order. Clause 4 is a very important clause. The Select Committee recognised the inconvenience and the occa-

sional hardship arising from the absence of any standard quality in articles of food, and they pointed out the serious effect which the adoption of such a standard might have when the article produced, though pure in quality, did not come up to this standard. The Board of Agriculture takes power, under this clause, to make regulations for determining what deficiency in any of the normal constituents of genuine milk, cream, butter, or cheese, or what addition of extraneous matter or proportion of water, in any sample of milk (including condensed milk), cream, butter, or cheese, shall, for the purposes of the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, raise a presumption, until the contrary is proved, that the milk, cream, butter, or cheese is not genuine or is injurious to health. Of course, they will have at their disposal the best advice they can possibly get, and it will be quite certain that they will act with the sole object of doing what is right as between the producer and the consumer. The fifth clause includes margarine-cheese as well as margarine; and the sixth clause insists that, where it is required that any package containing margarine or margarine-cheese shall be branded or marked, the brand or mark shall be on the package itself, and not solely on a label, ticket, or other thing attached thereto. The seventh clause, I believe, is also a very important one, because it provides that every occupier of a manufactory of margarine or margarine-cheese, and every dealer in such substances, shall keep a register showing the quantity and destination of each consignment of such substances sent out from his manufactory or place of business, and this register shall be open to the inspection of any officer of the Board of Agriculture. By that means the Board will be able to trace the destination of any adulterated article, and will have much more power to take care that adulterated articles are not sold. Therefore, it is essential that the register should be kept. I have received a letter this morning, saying that this proposal was rather hard upon the manufacturer, because the importer was not bound to register anything. The importer, however, generally sends it through some agency in this country, and, with the help of the Customs Board, the Board of Agriculture will be able to get all the information it

Viscount Cross.

wants as to the destination of articles, without insisting on this register. I now come to the eighth clause, which provides that it shall be unlawful to manufacture margarine which contains more than 10 per cent. of butter fat. I know that many people say the more butter that is put in the better it will be, and that we should not limit the amount of butter to be mixed with margarine. This matter was very carefully considered by the Select Committee, who reported :

“ Apparently, a considerable trade is carried on in the admixture of margarine and butter which, under the Margarine Act, 1887, must be sold under the denomination of margarine. An examination of the evidence will disclose much difference of opinion amongst witnesses as to the expediency of promoting the sale of such mixtures. There can be little doubt that a vast amount of fraud is perpetrated owing to the admixture of butter with margarine, which greatly facilitates the substitution of an adulterated for a genuine article. While your Committee are reluctant to recommend any restriction on trade which would have the effect of preventing the poor classes from purchasing a useful article of food, they are impressed with the fact that fraudulent trade is facilitated by the admixture for sale of margarine and butter, and they recommend the entire prohibition of such admixture.”

It has been felt that any such prohibition as that would inflict great hardship on the persons who want to make use of margarine. There are some who think that the prohibition of the admixture of butter with margarine should be absolute. There are some who say it should be unrestricted, and there are others who say that all mixtures should be sold as mixtures. The best margarine can be sold with the admixture of some 4 or 5 per cent., at the outside, of butter, and therefore, if it is to be sold as margarine, you will not get any advantage by putting more butter into it. The effect of putting more butter into margarine makes it extremely difficult to detect how far it is adulterated, and extremely easy for the seller to sell it as butter. One of the witnesses before the Committee stated that no less than 75 per cent. of that which was not butter was sold as butter for butter prices. It is for the prevention of fraud and nothing else that we are limiting the amount of butter to be mixed with margarine. With regard to milk, I think it has been conclusively proved that since cream-separators have come into general use, much of the skim milk sold is not nutritious, and it is cruel to allow poor people to purchase it for their

children, whose health suffers from lack of nourishment. The Bill provides that every receptacle containing condensed, separated, or skimmed milk, must bear a label, clearly visible to the purchaser, with the words “ separated milk ” or “ skimmed milk.” We do not mean the ordinary skimmed milk, skimmed by hand, which is a different thing, but machine-skimmed milk; and in Committee I shall ask your Lordships to insert the word “ machine ” before “ skimmed.”

With regard to the penalties to be imposed, we think that if a person is found guilty, he should be liable to a fine which may extend to £20 as the maximum for the first offence, £50 for the second offence, and £100 for any subsequent offence. But where, under the provisions of this Act, a person guilty of an offence is liable to a fine exceeding £50, and the offence, in the opinion of the Court, is committed by the personal act, default, or culpable negligence of the person accused, that person shall be liable, if the Court is of opinion that a fine will not meet the circumstances of the case, to imprisonment with or without hard labour, for a period not exceeding three months. There is another clause with reference to the warranty. In the Margarine Act an invoice is considered sufficient warranty, and there is no doubt that in some cases it would be hard on the retailer if it were not so. I have to-day presented a petition from Bristol entirely approving of the Bill, but thinking that an invoice itself ought to be quite sufficient. Well, that is not the opinion of the Board of Agriculture, or my own opinion. Under this Bill a warranty or invoice shall not be available as a defence to any proceedings, unless the defendant has, within seven days after service of the summons, sent to the purchaser a copy of such warranty or invoice with a written notice stating that he intends to rely on that warranty or invoice, and specifying the name and address of the person from whom he received it, and has also sent a like notice of his intention to such person. I think I have explained how necessary the Bill is, and that we are not desirous of pressing hardly on the consumer or the retail dealer. I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

Moved, “ That the Bill be now read 2^a. ”—(*Viscount Cross*.)

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: My Lords, I have nothing to say against the main object of this Bill, and it is highly desirable that legislation against adulteration should be effective, but Clause 8 calls for observation. That clause makes it penal to put more than 10 per cent. of butter into margarine, and I cannot but say that I am not satisfied by the arguments of the noble Viscount upon this provision. I do not see myself any legitimate defence for such a provision. I assume that the framers of this Bill, and the Committee who reported, are not tainted with that foolish prejudice against margarine as such. Margarine, as far as I can understand, is a cheap and wholesome article of food, the consumption of which ought to be encouraged in the interests of the working classes, though, of course, the fraudulent sale of it as butter should be prevented. To add butter to margarine cannot be called adulteration, and I cannot understand why there is a departure in this clause from the usual principle adopted in these Bills—namely, that mixtures of wholesome articles are perfectly lawful, provided such mixture is labelled and sold for what it really is. Take the case of chicory and coffee. I do not suppose any person can find out whether there is a mixture of chicory with coffee, which is as bad an adulteration as I know of; but all the law requires is that upon every packet or vessel containing a mixture of coffee and chicory it shall be plainly and distinctly marked that it is a mixture of chicory and coffee, and if the dealer sells such a mixture without giving that notice then he is most properly punished. But why in the world he should not mix butter with margarine I do not know. If it will improve the margarine, nobody can be hurt. It has been said that great pressure has been brought to bear on the Government to protect butter from the competition of margarine. I do not accuse the Government of having that motive, but it is the motive of those who have pressed for a measure of this kind. No doubt margarine is largely bought by consumers as a substitute for butter; but a provision to promote the sale of one product instead of another, both being wholesome, is indefensible in a Bill of this kind. Margarine will remain a serious competitor to butter

if the producers in this country cannot improve the butter which they make, for one of the reasons why such large consignments of butter are imported is that a large quantity of the butter produced in this country is positively execrable. Until there are satisfactory systems of producing butter in this country by all the improved methods used by our competitors, I cannot say that I have very much sympathy with the butter producers. We should allow those who wish to eat margarine, which is a cheap and wholesome article, to get it, and should not throw any unnecessary impediments in their way.

*VISCOUNT CROSS: I stated distinctly that margarine was an excellent and wholesome food, and that the sole object of this Bill was to protect the consumer, and that a small proportion of butter put into margarine made it as good as it could be made as margarine. The clause is directed against the sale of the mixture as butter, and we have it stated that 75 per cent. of this stuff is at the present time sold to the consumers as butter. Let the consumers have margarine if they like. All we desire is to prevent the fraudulent dealer from palming off this mixture to people who want butter, and pay the price of butter. The clause represents the unanimous opinion of the Committee, and I am sure if the noble Earl will look further into it he will see that it is absolutely necessary.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: I brought no kind of imputation of unfairness against the framers of the Bill. I only said there were persons interested who were biassed against margarine.

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House Tomorrow.

IMPROVEMENT OF LAND BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

*VISCOUNT CROSS: This is a very simple Bill. Its objects are to extend

the period for the repayment of charges under the Improvement of Land Act, 1864, from 25 years to 40 years; to allow such charges to be imposed not only on the land improved, but also on other land in which the same persons are interested; to enable the improvement companies to adopt as improvements authorised by their private Acts the improvements authorised by the public Improvements Acts; to authorise the extension of the period of repayment of existing charges incurred in respect of planting woods and trees; to extend to Scotland the additions to the improvements authorised by the Act of 1864 contained in Acts which do not extend to Scotland; and to remove a few doubts and inconsistencies.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^a."—(*Viscount Cross*.)

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed to a Committee of whole House tomorrow.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD (IRELAND) BILL.

Read 3^a (according to order), and passed.

QUESTIONS.

THE AGED AND DESERVING POOR IN WORKHOUSES.

LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY: My Lords, I rise to ask Her Majesty's Government whether the attention of the Local Government Board has been drawn to the plan adopted by the Guardians of the Macclesfield Union for dealing with the aged and deserving poor in the workhouse; and whether this plan has been adopted in many other places. Although many Royal Commissions have had no legislative results, yet gratitude is due to some of the barren commissions which have nipped in the bud schemes either impossible or useless, and even pernicious. One of these has been the Royal Commission which has shown the impracticability of Old Age Pensions. Nevertheless, Mr. Chamberlain still pursues that will-o'-the-wisp, but his object, within the limits which he himself

has laid down, seems likely to be attained without any legislation, whether heroic, socialist, or vote-catching. What is an old age pension? It is board and lodging for a deserving and worn-out labourer, as much as can be provided for him by 5s. a week. The Macclesfield Union has established privilege wards for the deserving aged poor of sixty years of age, and the rules which that Union follows have been introduced in a Local Government Order issued about 1896, recommending all workhouses to adopt some such scheme. Such provision might, with encouragement from the Local Government Board, be made in many other places, and such privileged wards or cottage homes might serve for two unions. This plan was adopted as long ago as 1850 and 1851 at Norwich by the rural guardians, but it came to an end when the town council took over the management of the workhouse. It is about a month ago that I obtained from the Master of the Macclesfield Workhouse a report of what he has done, and it seemed to me that this, if generally extended and assisted by private charity, might supply what alone is practicable in the matter of Old Age Pensions; and I am very glad to find that the Bishop of Durham is of this opinion, and has been the first to announce this publicly, and also to set an example of private assistance to these schemes. In a paragraph in the *Pall Mall Gazette* of the 22nd July, it is stated that:

"In forwarding a donation to the Aged Miners' Cottage Homes Fund for County Durham, the Bishop of the diocese writes:— 'One cottage can, I understand, be provided for for about twenty-one pounds. May I then have the privilege of providing for one? You know how highly I value this scheme which the men have organised. It appears to me to be a contribution towards a true solution of the problem of old-age pensions.'"

***LORD HARRIS:** My Lords, the Local Government Board are aware of the plan adopted by the guardians of the Macclesfield Union for dealing with the aged and deserving poor in the workhouse. Two large rooms, one for males and the other for females, are set apart as privileged wards for inmates of good character and conduct. Inmates are placed in these wards by direction of the visiting committee, and special privileges are allowed them. Thus they may receive visitors, and are allowed to go out of the workhouse every afternoon,

The Board are not in possession of information which enables them to state how far the precise plan adopted by the Macclesfield guardians has been followed elsewhere. But the subject of improvement in the classification of the aged and infirm inmates of workhouses has been brought by the Board under the attention of guardians generally, and much has been done in the matter. This is recognised in the recent Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Cottage Homes, who state that they :

"Have received evidence that in several large unions the guardians have made special efforts to provide separate accommodation for paupers sub-classified with reference to conduct. Thus at Liverpool a house has been set apart for well-behaved old women ; at West Derby, Portsmouth, and Sheffield cottages have been erected in connection with the workhouse for married couples and the aged deserving poor ; at Fulham a wing entirely separate from the rest of the workhouse has just been provided for the aged deserving poor ; and provision of a similar character has been made at Grimsby, Hull, and Kensington."

Other instances might be given, and it may be said generally that to a greater or less extent the subject is receiving the attention of guardians everywhere. One of the chief obstacles in the way is the lack of accommodation in some workhouses, which prevents the carrying out of further classification.

House adjourned at a quarter
past Seven of the clock till
To-morrow, a quarter before
Three of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 31st July 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

DARWEN CORPORATION BILL.

WARRINGTON CORPORATION BILL.

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and
agreed to.

CROMER PROTECTION BILL [Lords].

(Queen's Consent signified.) Read the
third time, and passed, with Amendments.

GLASGOW AND SOUTH WESTERN
RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

(Queen's Consent signified.) Read the
third time, and passed, with Amendments.

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY (GENERAL
POWERS) BILL [Lords.]

(Queen's Consent signified.) Read the
third time, and passed, with Amendments.

GREAT YARMOUTH WATER BILL
[Lords].

(Queen's Consent signified.) Read the
third time, and passed, with Amendments.

HASTINGS HARBOUR BILL [Lords].

Read the third time, and passed, with
Amendments.

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY BILL
[Lords].

(Queen's Consent Signified.) Read the
third time, and passed, with Amendments.

OLDHAM CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

OYSTERMOUTH RAILWAY OR TRAM-
ROAD BILL [Lords].

WOLVERHAMPTON TRAMWAYS BILL
[Lords].

Read the third time, and passed, with
Amendments.

LONDON AND SOUTH-WESTERN RAIL-
WAY BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered ; to be read
the third time.

MANCHESTER CORPORATION TRAM-
WAYS BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered ; Amendments
made ; Bill to be read the third time.

NORTH-EASTERN AND HULL AND
BARNSELY RAILWAYS (JOINT
DOCKS) BILL [Lords].

As amended, to be considered To-
morrow.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE RAILWAY
BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 223
and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill
be now read the third time.—(*Dr. Far-*
quharson.)

(Queen's Consent signified.) Bill read
the third time accordingly, and passed,
with Amendments.

**PAISLEY AND BARRHEAD DISTRICT
RAILWAY BILL [Lords].**

As amended, considered ; a clause added ; Amendments made ; Bill to be read the third time.

ROCHDALE CANAL BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered ; to be read the third time.

**SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE TRAMWAYS
BILL [Lords].**

[Not amended], considered.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Dr. Farquharson.*)

Bill read the third time accordingly, and passed, without Amendment.

**WOLVERHAMPTON CORPORATION
BILL [Lords].****WORKINGTON CORPORATION BILL
[Lords].**

As amended, considered ; to be read the third time.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 14) BILL.**

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

**GAS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 2)
BILL [Lords].**

Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

PETITIONS.

BOROUGH FUNDS ACT, 1872.

Petition from Bedwellty, for alteration of Law ; to lie upon the Table.

GAFOOR, ABDUL.

Petition of Abdul Gafoor, for redress of grievances ; to lie upon the Table.

NUR KHAN.

Petition from Nur Khan, for redress of grievances ; to lie upon the Table.

**POOR LAW AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND)
ACT, 1845.**

Petitions for alteration of Law ; from Girvan, Kilmuir, Bracadale, Snizort, and Bathgate ; to lie upon the Table.

**SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO
CHILDREN.**

Petition from Trawden, for alteration of Law ; to lie upon the Table.

TITHE RENT-CHARGE (RATES) BILL.

Petition from Marylebone, against ; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

BOARD OF TRADE (LABOUR DEPARTMENT) (CHANGES IN WAGES, ETC.).

Copy presented,—of Report and Statistical Tables relating to Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour in the United Kingdom, 1898, with Statistical Tables [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS.

Copy presented,—of Report by the Chief Labour Correspondent on the Strikes and Lock-Outs of 1898, &c. [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

COLONIAL LOANS.

Copy presented,—of Financial Returns as to Colonies, &c., to which it is proposed to advance Loans under the Colonial Loans Bill, 1899 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

**POOR RELIEF (ENGLAND AND
WALES).**

Return presented,—relative thereto [ordered 21st July ; *Mr. T. W. Russell*] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 308.)

**HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES
ACT, 1890 (METROPOLITAN IM-
PROVEMENT SCHEMES).**

Copy presented,—of Order of the Secretary of State for the Home Department permitting further modifications in the London (Churchway, St. Pancras) Improvement Scheme, 1895 [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.

Copy presented,—of Forty-third Report of the Commissioners, with Appendix [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

NATIONAL DEBT.

Copy presented,—of Return showing (1) the Aggregate Gross Liabilities of

the State as represented by the Nominal Funded Debt, Estimated Capital Value of Terminable Annuities, Unfunded Debt, and other Liabilities in respect of Debt, the Estimated Assets, and the Exchequer Balances at the close of each financial year from 1835-6 to 1898-9, both inclusive; and (2) the Gross and Net Expenditure charged Annually during that period against the Public Revenue on account of the National Debt, and other Payments connected with Capital Liabilities (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper [C. 8966] of Session 1898) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

Return presented, — relative thereto [ordered 16th June; *Sir Henry Fowler*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 309.)

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (RULES).

Copy presented, — of Rule, dated 20th July 1899, in relation to proceedings under the Land Law (Ireland) Acts [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

MADRAS LAND REVENUE.

Address for "recent Correspondence between the Secretary of State for India and the Madras Government concerning sales of Land for arrears of Revenue and alleged shortcomings in the Madras Land Revenue arrangements." — (*Sir William Wedderburn.*)

QUESTIONS.

WAR OFFICE DECENTRALISATION.

CAPTAIN BAGOT (Westmorland, Kendal): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether a Committee is now sitting to consider how best to carry out all the recommendations of the Committee on War Office decentralisation, as regards the diminution of the correspondence, returns, etc., which go through the War Office, and which have been approved by the Secretary of State; and, if so, when he expects it to Report; and whether any reduction in the clerical staff of the War Office has been made since the Secretary of State approved of the suggestions contained in the Schedule to the Report, or whether any, and, if so, what, reduction is contemplated.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): A Departmental Committee is inquiring into the civil establishment of the War Office, and I am not able to say how soon it will report. The Committee is, I need not say, taking into account the effects of the measures of decentralisation which have resulted from the Report of Mr. Brodrick's Committee.

MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War what is the total estimated expenditure in the present financial year on military works and barracks, whether under the present Military Works Bill or under previous Military Works Acts and Barracks Acts.

*MR. WYNDHAM: The total expenditure is estimated at £1,462,000.

WEI-HAI-WEI.

SIR J. COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether Colonel Bower, of the Indian Staff Corps, is now in military command at Wei-hai-wei; and whether the War Office proposes to make Wei-hai-wei a Royal Engineer command; and, if so, whether this officer of the Indian Staff Corps will be dispossessed of the command by conferring on some junior officer of Royal Engineers such superior local rank as may be necessary to effect that purpose, in accordance with the method adopted by the War Office at Esquimalt, to displace the officer of Royal Marine Artillery in command at that place by his junior in the Royal Engineers.

*MR. WYNDHAM: Colonel Bower, who commands the Chinese battalion which is being raised at Wei-hai-wei, is the senior military officer now on the spot; but an officer of Royal Engineers, senior to him, has been selected for the military command at Wei-hai-wei.

SIR J. COLOMB: Arising out of that answer, may I inquire why the same course was not pursued at Esquimalt?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! I do not think that arises out of the answer at all.

SPIRIT DUTIES IN LAGOS.

SIR JOHN KENNAWAY (Devonshire, Honiton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the decision of the Government to tax stocks of spirits in the Lagos Colony at the time of the recent raising of the duty has been altered, and, if so, for what reason; and whether the Government intend to adhere to their decision with regard to this matter in the other West African Colonies and Protectorates; and whether he would be good enough to furnish a table of the imports of gin and rum into Lagos during each of the first five months of this year compared with the similar months of 1898, seeing that it is reported that there has been a large increase of the import of spirits into Lagos during the last few months.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): The proposal to tax stocks of spirits was not carried out in Lagos because the Acting Governor considered it preferable to raise the duty at once to 3s. per gallon, and I approved of this being done. In the Niger Coast Protectorate it was necessary under an arrangement with Germany to give one month's notice of any change in the duty, and, as it appeared that a large importation of spirits was taking place in anticipation of an increased duty, the proposal to tax stocks was carried out. In Sierra Leone and the Gold Coast the duties already amounted to or exceeded 3s. per gallon, and have not been increased, and there has therefore been no question of taxing stocks; but, if necessary, the principle of taxing stocks will be adopted. The number of gallons of gin and rum imported into Lagos was 508,091 in the first five months of 1898, and 626,218 in the same period of 1899. I shall be glad to forward the particulars to the hon. Member if desired.

PROPOSED POLICE GAZETTE FOR SCOTLAND.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeenshire, N.): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether, seeing that the establishment of a *Police Gazette* for Scotland has been strongly recommended by former inspectors of constabulary for Scotland, as also by the officer at present holding that appointment, steps will be taken to carry out this recommendation.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Butheshire): I understand, upon inquiry, that the English *Police Gazette* publishes all the criminal information of importance which it at present receives from Scottish police forces; and that this *Gazette* is circulated to the majority, if not to all, of the police forces in Scotland. The Secretary for Scotland considers that this sufficiently meets the requirements of the Scottish police service, at all events until the English *Police Gazette* is no longer available for the insertion of Scottish information regarding criminals.

OUTDOOR ROMAN CATHOLIC PROCESSIONS IN LONDON.

MR. WILLIAM JOHNSTON (Belfast, S.): I beg to ask Mr. Solicitor-General whether his attention has been called to an outdoor procession at Hatton Garden on Sunday the 16th July, in honour of the "Feast of our Lady of Mount Carmel," when various Roman Catholic clergymen walked in the procession; whether, in view of the provisions of 10 George IV., Chapter 7, Section 26, which imposes a penalty on Roman Catholic ecclesiastics who take part in such processions, and also of the proclamation against Roman Catholic processions issued on the 15th of June, in the 15th year of the reign of the Queen, Her Majesty will be advised to renew such proclamation in maintenance of the law.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir R. B. FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): The only information I have with regard to this matter is a newspaper report to which my hon. friend has called my attention. It is not proposed to renew the proclamation.

SCHOOL RENTS.

SIR JOHN KENNAWAY: I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether there is any objection to an owner charging a new rent or an increased rent for school buildings and teachers' residence, when new and increased subscriptions are given for the purpose of meeting it, so as to show clearly the whole cost of maintenance and the real amount of voluntary contribution.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDU-

CATION (Sir J. GORST, Cambridge University): There is no objection, provided that the amount of rent is reasonable.

CONVICT OFFICERS' DUTIES.

MR. DAVITT (Mayo, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether officers in the service of convict prisons who, if on day duty, would receive their Saturday half holiday, forfeit the same when on night duty; whether the prevalence of this rule results in night watchmen losing thirteen days annually of holidays which would otherwise be allowed; and if he will take steps to remedy this state of things.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir M. WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): The night watchmen in convict prisons are always off duty in the daytime, so that the question of a Saturday half-holiday does not arise. The aggregate number of hours they work is about six hours per week more than the ordinary discipline officers, but the nature of the duty is so different that there can be no comparison between them, and I do not therefore think that any alteration in the present system is called for.

MRS. MAYBRICK.

MR. DAVITT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can state if any, and, if so, what, action has been taken by the United States Government in the case of Mrs. Maybrick; have petitions been addressed on her behalf by American public bodies and persons; and have representations been made in her favour to Her Majesty's Government by the American Minister on various occasions since her conviction, and if so, can he see his way to present such Papers to the House, along with the replies which are made by the Home Office or the Foreign Secretary.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: Representations have been made in favour of Mrs. Maybrick by the American Government through the American Ambassador, and numerous applications have been received from individuals. It would be contrary to practice to present to the House Papers relating to the exercise of the prerogative of mercy.

LONDON SCHOOL BOARD AND WORKMEN'S DWELLINGS.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can now state the result of his communications with the London School Board and the Education Department respecting the displacement of working-class occupiers of houses acquired by the Board in Bethnal Green under its statutory powers; and whether he is now in a position to state the nature of the provisions respecting the re-housing of displaced persons which it is proposed to insert in the Educational Department Provisional Order Confirmation (London) Bill at present before Parliament.

*SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: I have made the inquiries which I promised and find that in several cases in the last few years the London School Board have obtained powers over labouring class houses in two successive sessions for the purpose of what was essentially one scheme, and have thus not come under a statutory obligation to rehouse the persons displaced. I concur with the Education Department in thinking that steps should be taken to prevent the recurrence of this practice, and as regards the Bill now before Parliament I propose to move the insertion of words which will enable the cases during the last five years, which I have referred to above, to be dealt with as though they had originally come within the obligation to re-house.

MR. FLOWER (Bradford, W.): May I ask whether the School Board have made proposals to modify the retrospective action of the Amendment which the Home Secretary has put down, in order that it shall apply only to cases where twenty or more houses are required in one parish for the purpose of one particular school site, and whether the right hon. Gentleman will not agree to these proposals, in view of the great difficulty of carrying out the retrospective Amendment.

*SIR M. W. RIDLEY: I have received a communication from the School Board objecting to the proposal which I shall ask the Committee to put in the Bill; but I am bound to say that I cannot agree with the School Board's representations.

A MISSING TELEGRAM.

MR. DAVITT: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether any, and, if so, what redress is left to Mr. William O'Brien in the case of the non-transmission of an important telegram from Westport to Dublin to the solicitor engaged in the case of M'Hale versus Sergeant Sullivan, of the Royal Irish Constabulary; and whether, in view of the fact that no record of the sending of this message is to be found in the telegraph office in Dublin, he can see his way to institute a sworn investigation in connection with this matter.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): All that can be done is to refund to Mr. O'Brien the amount paid for the transmission of the telegram in question. The Postmaster-General has already made full inquiry in the matter. He has no power to institute a sworn investigation. If, however, Mr. O'Brien has grounds for suspecting any malpractices, and will furnish any evidence in his possession, the matter shall be considered further.

CAPTAIN DONELAN: Is the objection to holding an inquiry to be found in the danger of disclosures?

MR. HANBURY: No, Sir. The Postmaster-General has no power to hold a sworn investigation.

CURZON-STREET POST OFFICE.

COLONEL DALBIAC (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether any complaints have been received from the female telegraphists, sent from the Western District Office to the Curzon-street Post Office, of the insanitary condition of that office; and if he can state if the authorities intend making any improvements in the arrangements.

MR. HANBURY: The post office in Curzon-street is a sub-office, and the premises are provided, not by the Department, but by the late sub-postmistress. Recently, it has been necessary to take the management out of her hands, and the office is in charge temporarily; but the Department has no power to interfere with the premises. The accommodation for the staff is poor, but the

medical officer reports that it is not insanitary. Arrangements, however, have been made to replace the women employed there by men until other accommodation can be obtained, so that the staff will no longer be a mixed one.

HOME CIVIL SERVICE.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury how many clerks have entered the Home Civil Service under the Higher Division scheme of examination since 1891; how many, if any, of such clerks are at present in receipt of salaries in excess of that which they would have attained under their ordinary service scale of pay; what is the amount of such salaries; and to what Departments are the clerks attached; and how many of the clerks entered since 1891 are now chief clerks; what is the date of their entrance; and the amount of their present salaries.

MR. HANBURY: The number of clerks who have entered the Home Civil Service under the Class I. Examination since 1891 is 124. There is no "ordinary service scale of pay" common to all these clerks, nor is there any definite grade of chief clerks extending throughout the service. It is therefore impossible for me to answer the question in its present form, and, while a Return might be given covering the points which the hon. Member presumably wishes to raise, the labour involved in its preparation would be very considerable, and the return, when complete, would not be of sufficient value to justify it.

SHIPS' DOCTORS.

MR. WILLIAM JOHNSTON: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been drawn to the recommendations of the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade to revise the medical scales for merchant vessels that, as regards merchant ships which carry no medical man, no ship should be allowed to proceed on a long voyage unless there should be someone on board who has passed through a course of instruction in First Aid to the wounded, and also that it should be made compulsory on every mate who presents himself for examination for a master's certificate that he

should produce evidence that he has passed through a course of instruction ; and whether he will have these recommendations carried out as soon as possible in merchant vessels and fishing smacks.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon) : Yes, Sir, the recommendation to which my hon. friend refers was laid before me in May last and is receiving careful consideration. At present the Board of Trade are in communication on the subject with the several interests concerned. I may add that the recommendation only refers to long voyage ships, and does not include fishing smacks.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT AND BEER SALES.

MR. YOXALL (Nottinghamshire, W.) : I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the fact that the County Council of Derbyshire requires a deposit of 10s. from any person claiming to have a beer cask tested ; and whether the requirement of such deposit is in accordance with the Statute, and, if not, what steps he proposes to take in the matter.

MR. RITCHIE : My attention has been called to the practice referred to by the hon. Member, and I have been in communication with the Derbyshire County Council on the subject. The council have informed me that they consider casks to be vessels, such as those contemplated in Section 22 of the Weights and Measures Act, 1878, and not measures used for trade. They have, however, instructed their inspectors to test the capacity of casks when asked to do so, on payment of 10s. for each day's work, not for each barrel. Such testing would not appear to be done by the inspector as part of his employment under the Weights and Measures Acts, inasmuch as the barrels are not verified and stamped as measures, and the Board of Trade have no power to deal with the matter.

MR. YOXALL : I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the fact that certain brewers in the Nottingham and Leicester districts sell beer in casks by weight and not by measure, contrary to the law, and, if so, what steps he proposes to take in the matter.

MR. RITCHIE : No, Sir ; I am not aware that the facts are as stated, nor that the sale of beer by weight is necessarily an offence under the Weights and Measures Acts.

MR. YOXALL : I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the Weights and Measures Act, 1878, so far as it relates to brewers' casks used as measures in the trade, is not adequately enforced ; and what steps he proposes to take in the matter.

MR. RITCHIE : I am not aware that the law is not properly enforced. Its enforcement rests with the local authorities, and not with the Board of Trade.

MR. YOXALL : I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade what local authorities in England and Wales are responsible, under the Board of Trade, for the due administration of the Weights and Measures Act, 1878 ; and if he will lay upon the Table of the House a list of the names of the said authorities for the various districts of England and Wales.

MR. RITCHIE : The local authorities in England and Wales responsible for the administration of the Weights and Measures Acts are the councils of counties and county boroughs, and the corporations of boroughs having at the time of the census of 1881 a population of not less than 10,000. I hardly think that it would serve any useful purpose to lay upon the Table a list of such counties, county boroughs, and boroughs.

ARMAGH QUARTER SESSIONS.

MR. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.) : I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he is aware that representations have been made to the proper authorities in favour of having the quarter sessions for County Armagh held alternately in Portadown and Lurgan ; and that the county court judge has expressed himself in favour of such a change ; and whether, seeing that courthouse accommodation in Portadown has been provided at considerable cost by the municipal council to enable the alternation desired to be carried out, he will give this matter his serious consideration.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, London-

derry, N.): Representations have been made in favour of the establishment of quarter sessions at Portadown twice each year alternately with Lurgan, but I am not aware whether the county court judge has publicly expressed himself in favour of the change. The matter was before the Privy Council so recently as the 7th instant, when after due consideration of the objections raised by all parties concerned it was decided not to comply with the application. The matter is entirely one for the Privy Council to determine, and I have no power to interfere.

ORANGE PROCESSIONS IN IRELAND.

MR. WILLIAM JOHNSTON: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that on the 1st July, when the members of the Clonkeen Loyal Orange Lodge were proceeding to Kildallon Church, they were stopped at the priest's house by the priest, who said he would not allow them to play music past his house or chapel, although the Roman Catholic band had frequently played in passing Kildallon Church during divine service without interference; and that, on the lodge band again commencing to play, the priest caught the drum, and put his foot through it; and whether any action will be taken by the Government to prevent such incitements to a breach of the peace.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): It is true that the band referred to in the first part of the question was stopped by the Roman Catholic clergyman, who stated he would not allow it to play when passing his house or the chapel, but it is not the fact that he put his foot through the drum. The Roman Catholic band has frequently played when passing the Protestant church, though I cannot say whether it has done so during divine service. The reverend gentleman has since expressed regret for what he did on the occasion, and has stated that he will not interfere with the band in future.

SANITATION AT DUNGANNON.

MR. DOOGAN (Tyrone, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is

aware that an application was made on 17th February to have the town of Dungannon constituted an urban sanitary district; whether, as the result of that application, an inquiry was held by Mr. Robert Agnew, Local Government Board inspector, on 21st March, and the approval of the county council was obtained on 2nd June; and whether, in view of the fact that the water supply is deficient, and is at present shut off at six o'clock in the evening, he will take steps to have the Order making Dungannon an urban district expedited.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The facts are correctly stated in the first and second paragraphs. It would not be desirable that any transfer of jurisdiction made by an Order of the Local Government Board should come into operation until the termination of the current financial year, and I am not aware that there is any necessity for pressing forward the consideration of this case. It will be dealt with in its proper turn among other applications of a similar nature. I may add that the Rural District Council have the same powers as the Rural Sanitary Authority in regard to the water supply in the town, and no attempt appears to have been made, until the present time, for the past twenty years to transfer such powers to an urban sanitary authority. The Rural District Council should discharge their duty and remedy any defects in the waterworks under their control.

OUTRAGES AT STONEYFORD.

MR. MACALEESE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if, owing to the numerous outrages committed in Stoneyford and the vicinity, he can see his way to establish a police protection station in that locality, seeing that the nearest police station to Stoneyford is Lisburn, which is five miles distant; whether his attention has been called to the fact that quite recently the licensed premises belonging to a Mr. MacMurrough, which he had purchased at a cost of over £200, were burnt down in his absence; and also to the fact that, within the past two years, there have been several malicious burnings of hay, including a £30 lot belonging to the rector, the Rev. Mr. McKnight, and a lot belonging to a Mr. John Laird, and that damage to the extent of £17 was done to

the brass fixings of the new waterworks; and can he recommend the establishment of a police station at this dangerous place.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: It is true that within the past two years a quantity of hay belonging to the Rector and to Mr. Laird was burned, and that the waterworks at Stoneyford were damaged. These incidents occurred more than eleven months ago. It is also the fact that the house of Mr. MacMurrough, which was purchased for less than one-half of the sum mentioned, was recently destroyed by fire. The information before me does not bear out the hon. Member's description of this place as "dangerous," and it is not considered necessary to establish a police station there.

CITY OF WESTMINSTER.

MR. PICKERSGILL: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether it is contemplated to confer by charter the title and status of city upon the new metropolitan borough of Westminster.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (MR. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): Perhaps the hon. Member has seen in the newspapers the statement that, as soon as the necessary arrangements under the London Government Act have been completed, there will be conferred on the borough of Westminster, as constituted under the Act, the title of city, originally conferred in the time of Henry VIII.

MR. JOHNSTON: Will the chief magistrate be entitled to the dignity of Lord Mayor?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think that follows.

(Later on) MR. PICKERSGILL: I beg to give notice that on an early day I will call attention to the proposed grant of the title of city to Westminster as an overriding of the deliberate and expressed determination of Parliament by the exercise of the Royal prerogative, and a breach of the distinct pledges given by the Leader of the House during the passage of the London Government Act.

BEN NEVIS OBSERVATORY.

MR. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the

Treasury whether the Government will take steps to prevent the closing of the Ben Nevis Observatory, which has been announced for next October, in view of the fact that it is the only high-level observatory in the United Kingdom, and that valuable scientific results have been obtained from the observations carried on there.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think that this question has been answered by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary to the Treasury twice in the course of the present session, and I have nothing to add to their answers. I may remind the hon. Member that it is primarily a question for the Meteorological Society, to which the Government give a large contribution, rather than for the Exchequer.

MR. BUCHANAN: But is it not the case that a new question has arisen in the fact that this high level observatory will be discontinued in October unless money is forthcoming?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have heard this statement made, and I have no reason to doubt its truth. But, unless my memory fails me, the facts are these: The Government have given more than £15,000 for the purpose of meteorological observation. This money is given to a society which is supposed to, and does, expend it to the best advantage in the three kingdoms. If that society holds, as they appear to do, that a high-level observatory is not of sufficient importance to make it necessary to spend out of the £15,000 a few hundreds more in order to keep that station open, it appears to be a matter for it to decide rather than for the Exchequer, which, after all, cannot be regarded as authorities in meteorological investigation.

COMMANDER BETHELL (Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness): Is it impossible to give a few hundreds in order to keep this important station open?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: That is just my point. If the society responsible for this £15,000 a year do not think that this observatory is of sufficient importance to justify their spending out of that money the necessary sum for the upkeep of that station, it does not appear to me

to be a case in which the Government can interfere.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): Is it not the case that if this observatory were situated in England instead of being in Scotland —

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): May I put the usual question as to the course of business?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It is impossible for me to state with precision the order of business to-morrow, but I hope to be able to advance the Naval Works Bill, the Military Works Bill, and the Colonial Loans Bill a stage, and to take the Board of Education Bill. If the House shows very great ardour in transacting the business, which I hope is in the main uncontroversial in character, it is not absolutely impossible that the House may be up on Wednesday week; but it will require some energy.

MR. JOHNSTON: Has the right hon. Gentleman taken into account the Dublin Corporation Bill?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I confess I had overlooked that. Still, if the House can finish substantially its work on the Bills on Wednesday, take the final stages of Committee of Supply on Thursday, and the final stage of Report of Supply on Friday, the Appropriation Bill will be read a first time on Friday, a second time on Monday, Committee stage on Tuesday, and, though it is perhaps sanguine, we may finish the session next day.

ANCHORS AND CHAIN CABLES BILL.

Lords Amendments to be considered forthwith; considered, and agreed to.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON ACT (1898) AMENDMENT BILL.

Lords Amendment to be considered forthwith; considered, and agreed to.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (1888) AMENDMENT BILL.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged.

Bill withdrawn.

WILD BIRDS PROTECTION BILL.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged.

Bill withdrawn.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—

TITHE RENT-CHARGE (RATES) BILL.

BURGH POLICE (SCOTLAND) PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD (IRELAND) BILL.

Without Amendment.

BEXHILL AND ROTHERFIELD RAILWAY BILL.

With an Amendment.

Amendments to—

HUMBER CONSERVANCY BILL [Lords].

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

Without Amendment.

COLONIAL LOANS BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): I do not wish to occupy much time on this question, but I desire to develop somewhat the observations I made on the introduction of this Bill. It is a very extraordinary Bill, because its Second Reading is moved at the end of July, while it is of a nature which ought to receive, and is designed to receive, the fullest attention and consideration of the House. Last year the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer introduced a Colonial Loans Fund Bill, which was so framed that it organised certain machinery dealing with this department of public business; but any loan that was to be put forward with the specific approval of Parliament was to be embraced in a clause of the Local Loans Bill. But objection was taken that if a loan or loans were dealt with in that way there would be no opportunity to the House of Commons to

make itself thoroughly acquainted with the circumstances, the necessities, and the quality of the loan, and to obtain all the information which was necessary. That having been the feeling of the House of Commons last year with regard to loans which might be embedded in that Bill, based on a comprehensive measure which had received the assent of the House of Commons, the right hon. Gentleman now asks us to approve a specific measure of two clauses, but containing in the schedule a list of no fewer than seventeen loans, all of which will receive the sanction of the House if this Bill passes into law. On the face of it, is it not an overreaching altogether of the proprieties of the case to ask the House in the last week of the session to deliberately give its approval to seventeen separate loans, a good many of which are entirely new, and of the particulars of which we can know nothing? Some of those loans are exceptional. There are two loans of small amount to meet the distress and the damage caused by the hurricane in the West Indies. They stand on a separate footing. But most of the others are loans of which we have absolutely no knowledge whatever at this moment. If there was such a strong opposition to the prospect of having one or two loans dealt with in a somewhat regular and deliberate manner, what shall we say of the seventeen loans now brought before us, without any opportunity whatever being given to the House of knowing what they are for? I regret that the matter should be in this condition. I know the right hon. Gentleman may be able to tell us that arrangements have been made, almost necessarily, anticipating the assent of Parliament. There may be a case on that account, but that is no reason why, owing to the arrangement of Government business, this question should be pushed over to the last hour of the session. In these circumstances I appeal to the right hon. Gentleman to say whether it is reasonable to expect the House of Commons to take this Bill into consideration.

***THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER** (Sir M. HICKS-BEACH, Bristol, W.): I regret that the right hon. Gentleman has thought it necessary to make such an appeal. I think it has been always understood that this Bill would be introduced towards the close of the

session. The First Lord of the Treasury referred to it some time ago, when making arrangements for the progress of business, and he said it would be a daughter Bill depending on the Colonial Loans Fund Bill.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: It is not a daughter; it is a litter.

***SIR M. HICKS-BEACH**: The right hon. Gentleman has argued on an entirely erroneous assumption. Last year, in deference to objection which was taken to our original proposal, I promised that the Colonial Loans Fund Bill should merely be a Bill for instituting the machinery for making loans, or rather the fund out of which loans should be made, and that before a loan could be made the separate authority of Parliament should be obtained. I never thought for a moment that each particular loan to a colony, perhaps of £20,000 or £30,000 and no more, should be the subject of a separate Bill. Any such proposition seems to me—

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: But ample time should be given to Parliament to look into them. That is my point.

***SIR M. HICKS-BEACH**: It has been all along understood that this, like the Public Works Loan Bill, is necessarily one of the Bills to be introduced towards the end of the session. Objection is taken to this, as an extraordinary proceeding on the part of the Government. Just let the House consider for a moment what happens with regard to local loans. Parliament is asked in a Bill, always introduced towards the close of the session, to provide and sanction this year no less than seven millions sterling for local loans within the United Kingdom. Those local loans are decided in individual cases, not by the Government, not by Parliament, but solely by the Public Works Loans Commissioners. Once the Public Works Bill of the year is passed, Parliament retains no control whatever over the grant to individual cases. By this Bill Parliament does exercise control over loans in individual cases, however small they may be. The right hon. Gentleman has not asked me, and it is not my duty to explain to Parliament, the particulars of any one of those loans. The Secretary of State for the Colonies will readily un-

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.

dertake that task, just as the representative of the War Office or of the Admiralty is responsible for the proposals of the Naval Works or Military Works Loans Bill. It is quite true this Bill involves the making of these loans, not out of a Colonial Loans Fund, but out of the Local Loans Fund already established by the authority of Parliament. I understand that the hon. Member for Poplar objects to this, on the ground that it constitutes a new departure. I can only say that by no conceivable process would it be possible to bring to the knowledge of Parliament future proceedings with regard to these loans more effectively than by making them out of the Local Loans Fund. Parliament has been asked in previous years, from time to time, to guarantee loans to colonies in need of such assistance, and it has done so in a casual kind of way, without any provision for communicating to Parliament how far the loans have served their purpose, and to what extent they have been repaid. But under the procedure we now propose, Parliament will be informed, just as it is this year, by the Return annually presented relating to loans made within the United Kingdom of the future of every one of these loans, the repayments made from time to time, and of all particulars in regard to them, and the Comptroller and Auditor-General will audit the accounts, just as he now audits the accounts of the loans that are made to local authorities in Great Britain and Ireland. That is the reason why I propose the loans should be made out of the Local Loans Fund, rather than by a separate guarantee. I hope the speech of the right hon. Gentleman does not presage any great opposition to the Bill. I have made such inquiries as were possible to me, and I gathered that those hon. Members who were opposed to the Colonial Loan Fund Bill were opposed to it on the ground that it did constitute an entirely new departure in finance by the institution of a Colonial Loans Fund, and that it imposed no limit whatever on the amount which might be issued. Some one suggested the total might run up to 200 or 300 millions, but of course that was neither our intention or expectation. Therefore, I understood that I was meeting the wishes of hon. and right hon. Gentlemen opposite by making the present proposal for a limited amount to be lent to colonies where such loans are required. This question must necessarily

form part of the examination of the process of utilising the Savings Banks deposits and investing them in various ways, which will come under the notice of Parliament next session. One of my reasons for introducing this Bill was that that subject might not be prejudged, and that we might make those loans which are absolutely required without binding Parliament as to its future action in the matter. Seeing that the Colonial Loans Fund Bill passed its Second Reading practically without opposition, it was anticipated that the measure would become law this session, and various Colonial Governments incurred expenditure on matters referred to in the schedule for which money will have to be provided and which cannot be provided in the ordinary way. Loans for those purposes which would otherwise have been issued have been kept back for something like eighteen months, and it is now impossible to issue them all at once under the old system. The great bulk of them will be extremely remunerative to whoever may lend the money. If hon. Members like to refer to any stock or share list in regard to the credit in the market of some of the colonies to whom loans will be made under this Bill, they will see, for example, that Jamaica Three per Cent. stock now stands at par, Mauritius Four per Cent. stock at a premium of more than 20, Trinidad Three per Cent. stock at par, and that Barbados Three-and-a-Half per Cent. stock stands at 107. So that hon. Members must not imagine that the great bulk of these loans come into the category of charitable or eleemosynary loans. In my belief they will be extremely good investments for the savings banks deposits if Parliament will sanction that investment. There are others, like the loans to Barbados and St. Vincent on account of the damage done by the hurricane, which are more in the nature of an eleemosynary loan, but these loans have been announced many months ago, and I do not think any single voice was raised in opposition. If hon. Members oppose the other loans set out in the schedule to which I have referred, I think they will be depriving the colonies of an advantage, which may be safely extended to them, of obtaining money at $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. less than they would in the open market, and they will certainly be depriving the depositors in the savings banks of an admirable investment for their money.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar): I think the right hon. Gentleman is under a misapprehension as to the nature of the opposition which we find ourselves compelled to offer to this Bill. It is not so much, as far as I am concerned, the principle contained in the Bill to which I object; on the contrary I think that loans to our colonies for railways, and the two which are known as "hurricane loans," meet with our approval. What I do object to is that this is practically a new departure not only in our relations to many of our colonies, but also in regard to the source from which loans are to be made; and I object very strongly that in the last working days of the session the House should be committed to that policy, and to such an enormous extent as £3,300,000. I entirely agree with what fell from the Leader of the Opposition with regard to the hurricane loans. I do not think anyone will object to them. What we do object to is that a new policy is introduced by this Bill for the first time, and we are asked to give the advantage of imperial credit to many of our colonies. The right hon. Gentleman talked as if this had been done constantly in the past, and as if we were now simply regularising that system; but I find that we have hitherto only made four such loans, and now at the extreme end of the session we are being asked to sanction an entirely new policy. The right hon. Gentleman says that he did not give a promise that each loan should be put into a separate Bill, but I believe the general impression in the House was that, while some loans might be classed in one Bill, it never was intended to include seventeen different loans for all sorts of purposes in the same Bill. Such a course puts some hon. Members in the very difficult position, if they do not accept the Bill, that they will be practically opposing some loans to which they do not object. When this subject was discussed the other day the right hon. Gentleman pledged himself most distinctly that the fullest possible explanation should be given of all these loans, but up to the present there has not been a single word of explanation even from the Colonial Secretary. Indeed, I think it would be rather difficult at this period of the session to give a full explanation of seventeen different loans. With the hurricane loans and some other loans I should be inclined to agree, but there

are other items, such as those with regard to Jamaica, to which, I for one, should strongly object. I do not think it is the business of the Imperial Parliament to lend her credit for such matters as securing the efficiency of railways and the payment of interest on railway debentures. It ought to be remembered that there has been a very considerable development of this policy of loans under this Bill, because the Chancellor of the Exchequer last year said two things; in the first place, that he did not expect that for some time to come the Crown would be likely to assume any large amount, and in the second place that he did not think it would be necessary to make loans to the West Indian colonies. Yet now we are asked to advance £3,300,000, and of this sum half a million is to go to our West Indian colonies! It only shows that this is a policy which is likely to rapidly develop if we once approve the principle. I do not think the House ought to be committed to the principle of the Bill at this stage in the session, and in the circumstances I shall certainly oppose the Bill.

MR. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.): I regret very much to hear the statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in which he held out no hope of any modification in the procedure in regard to this Bill. He told us that there was no understanding come to when the Colonial Funds Bill was under discussion, that each separate loan should be brought forward in a separate Bill. I remember very well, however, what occurred when objection was being taken on the ground that the authority of Parliament over the various loans might not be preserved. The right hon. Gentleman told us that on that point we were perfectly safe, because a separate Bill would be brought forward to deal with the loans. These words, of course, might not imply a separate Bill for each loan, but I am bound to say I understood it to convey that meaning, and my view is strengthened by the first clause, in which I find the following words:

"Where a loan under this Act to a colony is by a separate Act relating to colonial loans authorised to be made within the time, to the amount and for the purposes therein specified, such loan may be advanced out of the Colonial Loans Fund."

Surely, the meaning of these words is, that the intention of the Bill was that each

separate loan should be passed through this House by a separate Act, so that the House might have an opportunity of considering it on its merits.

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH : It meant an Act separate from the Colonial Loans Fund Act.

MR. BUCHANAN : I am aware that that is a possible meaning, but I think the obvious meaning of the words I have quoted is that under this Act loans should only be advanced by means of a separate Act. In the past, whenever the Imperial credit has been pledged on behalf of a particular Colony, it has always been done in a separate Act, and I am certain that the general idea the House gathered from the statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer was that the authority of Parliament would be amply maintained in future in the matter of these loans. But is the authority of the House of Commons being so maintained on this occasion, when we see a Bill brought in during the last week of the session by which a totally new departure in regard to financial arrangements with our Colonies is being introduced, and we are asked to advance a sum of over three and a-quarter millions for various purposes as to which we have absolutely no information? I do not think that that is a fair way of treating the House of Commons. It is invidious to put upon anyone at this period of the session the duty of criticising, however feebly, the proposals of a Bill into the details of which it is almost impossible to enter. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has told us that these loans are likely to be remunerative, and he has referred to the financial position of some of the colonies to which they are to be advanced. Surely, if a colony can borrow at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., it is proof that there is no really substantial need to give it financial assistance. I always thought that the policy of the Government was to make these colonies as far as possible independent and self-governing, and I certainly cannot see how you are increasing their independence by thus coming forward with indiscriminate offers of assistance. The Chancellor of the Exchequer also spoke of this as affording an admirable opportunity for the investment of Savings Bank deposits. I do not think that that is a fair argument. We know that the matter of the

investments of these deposits is to come before us next session, and I do not think we ought to be asked by this totally new departure in the mode of making loans to our own colonies to establish a new fund in which to invest our Savings Bank deposits. Let the House consider what are really the proposals of this Bill. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has referred to the fact that this is practically a daughter Bill of the Colonial Loans Fund Bill, and my right hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition has pointed out that it is not the birth of one but rather of a litter. Here we have a proposal to make seventeen loans to twelve different colonies, and the gross total proposed to be advanced is £3,300,000. What are the purposes for which this money is to be advanced? We are asked in the schedule of this Bill to vote a sum of £1,680,000 for West African railways. That is an astounding proposal to be made in the last week of the session. The information which has been afforded to us in regard to it has been of the vaguest possible character. Is it necessary that this money should be advanced? I have been looking into some Returns with regard to the West African Colonies, and I find that Sierra Leone in 1873 borrowed £40,000 on her own security for the purpose of certain harbour works. I do not know what progress was made with those works, but the interest of the loan and the capital sum as well have been paid off. Surely, then, there is no great need for this advance for railways in Sierra Leone. What security is there that the interest and the principal of the loans will be paid? Clause 2 of the Bill provides that the principal shall be a charge on the revenues and assets of the colonies; but the present financial condition of some of the colonies is not first class. In the case of the Gold Coast, for instance, it is admitted that the colony cannot pay its way, and of late years the Imperial Parliament has made increased grants in aid of its revenue. Could there be anything more absurd than trying to hoodwink the public into the idea that you are advancing money on good security, when you yourselves have recognised in the last year or two that the colony cannot pay its way, and needs grants from the Imperial Exchequer to enable it to cover its current ordinary expenditure?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): The grant was made in aid of the northern territories. It was quite exceptional, and did not arise under the ordinary expenditure and revenue of the colony.

MR. BUCHANAN: I accept that explanation, but it only shows the difficulty the House is in. May I ask the Colonial Secretary whether the railways are entirely in the Gold Coast Colony or in the northern territories?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The railways are practically entirely in the colony, but there is a proposal to carry the railway to Kumassi.

MR. BUCHANAN: I understood that the part of the grant in aid which related to telegraphs was given to the colony and not to the northern territories.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The telegraph is in the northern territories. My feeling in regard to all these matters is that where money is being expended for the development of the territories it should be granted by way of loan; but where the money is required in order to make provision against possible aggression—which, fortunately, has now been rendered unnecessary by the Convention with France—I hold it is not fair the abnormal expenditure required should fall on the colony.

MR. BUCHANAN: May I ask whether the revenues of the Gold Coast are the security for the railways?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Yes.

MR. BUCHANAN: In the short time which has been at our disposal, it has been impossible for outsiders to closely examine the matter; but I have looked through the Colonial Office List, which gives a summary of the revenue and expenditure of some of the colonies within recent years, and I find that, as to the Gold Coast, in 1888-89 there was a deficit, in the three following years a surplus, in the three next years a deficit, and last year the revenue was £237,000 and the expenditure £406,000. What kind of

security will the revenue of the Gold Coast be for a loan of half a million sterling? Lagos and Sierra Leone are to get between them a million sterling for railways, but the House has been afforded no information in respect to those places. Half a million is to go to the Malay States, in all of which, except one, there is a deficit. The security, therefore, does not look very first class. £450,000, divided into five different purposes, is to go to Jamaica. One purpose is railway rolling stock, a very strange object for which to lend money from the Imperial Exchequer. It certainly is not a very promising form of investment, and I think we ought to have had some explanation about the proposed payment for debentures. It seems to me that the creditors, seeing a prospect of getting a loan from the Imperial Exchequer, have been holding out for better terms. But no information has been vouchsafed us at all.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I will give it now.

MR. BUCHANAN: It is rather too late. I am not speaking for myself, but I say the House of Commons is not being fairly treated by being asked to pass this Bill without information during the last week of the session. There is an item of £150,000 to Jamaica, for what purpose? In aid of the revenue. Loans are to be made on the security of the revenue, and at the same time Parliament is making a grant in aid of the revenue. Surely, that is taking money out of one pocket to put it into the other. I will not go further into detail, but I do say there are two strong arguments against proceeding with this Bill at this period of the session. The first is the absolute want of information as to the purposes for which we are asked to advance this money, and the second is the absence of information as to the security to be given. Surely, it is an extraordinary thing that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should, at this late period of the session, propose to advance over £3,000,000 without informing the House as to the security on which this money is to be invested. This is a distinctly new departure both in financial and colonial policy. The Secretary for the Colonies has been in the habit of making interesting speeches upon the subject of his colonial policy, and his desire to develop

the backward colonies out of the Imperial Exchequer. There may have been Votes of this character passed by this House, but this House has not been committed to that course, and there is a strong objection, indeed, to public credit being used for the purposes of constructing these public works and building these railways in backward colonies, in order to promote their commercial development. That is a question which ought to be discussed and debated, and the House ought to have an opportunity, in full session, of debating it. I do think that the mode in which the Government have brought forward this very important Bill, which contains so many novelties, both financial and political, at the very fag end of the session, is really playing with the control of the House, and I think we are entitled to an explanation. I beg leave to move the adjournment of the Debate.

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot accept that motion.

MR. BUCHANAN: Then I move that this Bill be read a second time this day three months.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the question to add the words, 'upon this day three months.'"—(Mr. Buchanan.)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Fortarshire): We have voted no less than £14,000,000 during the last fortnight, and it can only be said in regard to £6,000,000 of that sum that full notice was given to the House. That is the amount which the House has been called upon to authorise the payment of within the past fortnight. It seems to me that a very strong ground of objection to the present proposal can be taken upon that fact alone. By bringing forward this proposal at this late period of the session, we are committing the House and the country to a principle which, I submit, has never been discussed. It is quite true that, earlier in the session, the Colonial Secretary indicated what his policy would be, for he described it as one of active and vigorous Colonial development. We were, however, promised full opportunity for discussion; but we are

now called upon to give our adhesion and consent to the Second Reading of a Bill containing a principle which there is not time to fully consider. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said, in February last, that—

"Before a loan is made a proposal will come before Parliament, and a full explanation will be given as to the reasons why it is asked for."

Here we are asked to authorise a series of loans to the various colonies which the Chancellor of the Exchequer himself expressly excluded. With regard to the argument that these loans will offer good investments for the Savings Bank Fund, I think the Chancellor of the Exchequer said that that was a matter requiring consideration; therefore, I can hardly think that he is entitled to assume that the House will be disposed on that ground to assent to this Bill. In the discussion upon a similar Bill last year, it was clearly indicated that the result of this policy would be to bring about a consolidation of the loans already given to the colonies. We are not only assenting to the loans mentioned in the Schedule, but we are opening the door to the proposition hinted at by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that it may be convenient to take advantage of this machinery to enable the whole of the colonial loans to be consolidated into one fund similar to the Local Loans Fund of this country. Practically, we are giving up, once and for all, our control by assenting to a principle which has never been discussed by the House. I know the same practice has been adopted by foreign countries for the development of their colonies, but it is open to doubt whether the commercial men of those countries approve of it. It is a very serious matter to ask the House, within a week of the end of the session, to adopt such a proposal, when it is impossible to discuss the Bill thoroughly, and when many hon. Members who could contribute valuable information are absent. I think the Government is exercising its predominant power to the very great detriment of the confidence which the country might be disposed to have in the future deliberations of this House. It seems to me to be straining representative institutions to the utmost, that no consideration should be given to the very weighty reasons which have been advanced for postponing this Bill.

*MR. COHEN (Islington, E.): I do not share the regret of the right hon. Gentleman and the hon. Gentlemen opposite at this Bill being passed through Parliament at the end of the session. I do not share that regret, because it embodies a principle which I have strenuously advocated—namely, that the credit of the mother country, on reasonable and solid security, should be granted to the aid of Crown colonies in cases where justification has been made out for it. Therefore, I am glad that, even at this eleventh hour, this Bill has been introduced, and I hope it will pass into law without alteration. But in saying this, I must be allowed to express my regret that a Bill, embodying an entirely new principle, should be introduced and passed into law without proper discussion in this House, and without proper consideration outside. I do not object so much on the ground of procedure, for I would rather sacrifice procedure than principle, but I do feel that this is a great departure from the financial regulations which govern the administration of the finances of this country, and I am sorry that that new departure cannot be, and will not be, subjected to that discussion and examination in the country which it ought to receive. My right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer, on the 23rd February last, said:

“I was desirous of introducing this Bill before, because I felt it was a measure which it would be advisable should be known and discussed in this House and in the country.”

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: It was discussed.

*MR. COHEN: The Bill was very little discussed in this House, and cannot now be discussed in the country at all. This Bill differs very much from the previous Bill, and requires not equal but more examination than the other Bill. My right hon. friend may recollect that when the other Bill was introduced Amendments were suggested which I thought were unreasonable, but in the present case what is going to be done? Not only are we unable to have the Bill examined as it ought to be examined, but we cannot receive what my right hon friend told us we should obtain, and that is a full explanation of the purposes for which the Bill is required. I am bound to say that I differ from the right

hon. Gentleman as to the nature of the securities, and on this point I share the opinion of my right hon. friend below. Here we are going to transfer the administration of these loans, and a Department of State is to make these advances and report to the House, not before but after the money has been spent. We are going to authorise a Department of the State to make these advances and report to us, not before but after the money has been advanced. I have a little experience in loans, and if the control of the House of Commons is worth anything, surely the House should be consulted before, and not after, the advance is made.

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: It is being consulted now.

*MR. COHEN: I do not think that my right hon. friend will claim that the examination which we are now allowed to institute is a very searching or critical examination; but, even superficial though it be, it does enable us to discriminate between advances which are urgent and advances which are not. We all approve of the House of Commons being asked to aid the West Indies in connection with hurricanes and other emergencies; but a railway in Sierra Leone, or a harbour and railways and irrigation in Cyprus, do not appear to me to partake of the urgent nature which distinguishes the advances to Barbados and St. Vincent. There is another principle which I also think ought not to be sanctioned by this House in this casual way, and that is with reference to the employment of the Post Office Savings Bank Funds. Personally, I am not desirous that these funds should be invested in any security that has not at the back of it the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom. If these funds are invested in these loans, it is the State that will run the risk. That is an important departure from the principle on which we have hitherto acted. In spite of these objections I do not wish to prevent this Bill passing into law. (Opposition laughter.) I am not aware why hon. Gentlemen should laugh. As I said at the outset, this Bill embodies a principle I have always advocated. I hope it will be passed, but I regret that it has not been submitted to sufficient examination and investigation.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): The hon. Member appeared surprised that we on this side laughed just now. I believe we had reason. The hon. Member made an excellent speech against the Bill, and then he finished up by hoping that the Bill would be passed. I might have hesitated as to whether I would vote for or against the Bill, but the hon. Member has so thoroughly convinced me that this is a bad Bill, that he himself is to a certain extent responsible for the action of my legs in taking me into the Lobby against it. The Chancellor of the Exchequer used a most extraordinary argument in favour of this Bill. He said that we required investments for the Savings Bank Funds, and that therefore he created these investments. Of course, they will be safe enough as far as the Savings Bank is concerned if you give a Government guarantee; but I never heard of a Government giving a guarantee and then saying they give it in order that they might be able to invest in a good security. The question really is, whether we will have good security ourselves, or whether we may be called upon to pay under the guarantee. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is a director of an insurance company, and I ask him, would he in that capacity regard this loan as an A1 security without a guarantee? Of course he would not. Why, then, should he ask the country to invest in these securities, which would not be regarded as A1 for an insurance company's purpose? I look through the Schedule of this Bill and find most extraordinary things. We are asked to believe that a grant to Jamaica in aid of revenue is a good investment. Jamaica cannot carry on on its own revenue, and we are asked to supply the deficit and to hope that in the future Jamaica will be able to repay us with interest. Then there is to be another advance to Jamaica for the completion and equipment of a railway, and the very next item for Jamaica is "interest on railway debentures," which means that the railway is unable to pay the interest on its debentures. Then, again, we are asked to advance £314,000 to Cyprus for "Harbour and Railways and Irrigation." Why, Sir, we know perfectly well that the first charge on Cyprus is the amount of £100,000 per annum,

which is paid practically in tribute to the Turkish Empire. At the present moment Cyprus cannot bear the expenses of administration, and we are expected to believe that in the future she will be able to meet her expenses and pay the interest on this loan. We know perfectly well what will occur. After a little while we shall be told that Jamaica, Cyprus, and the other places cannot pay, and that we shall have to pay. I have observed that in Turkey, China, and other remote parts of the world, there is great competition for concessions to build railroads among financiers; but even the wildest financier would never dream of taking, even as a gift, the right to build railroads in Jamaica or Cyprus. We are asked to vote certain sums of money for these purposes, but we are not told whether more money will be required. Surely these railroads are not to be left half finished. Our great complaint is that the Bill has been brought in so late in the session, and at a period when it was understood controversial measures would not be introduced. No one will deny that this is a very controversial measure. On the Schedule alone it will be my painful duty to divide the House at least fifteen times—and allowing fifteen minutes for each Division, that means nearly four hours—and allowing an hour for discussing each item, which cannot be regarded as excessive, that means nearly twenty hours on the Schedule alone. Under the circumstances, if we go on with this Bill, the session is not likely to end at the period which is now contemplated. We want to go away for our holidays—we fully admit that—but we are ready to sacrifice ourselves. There are hon. Members on these benches with such determination and patriotism—I am not speaking of myself—that they will sit during August and September rather than allow this Bill to go through in this reckless fashion. I hope the Chancellor of the Exchequer will realise that, whether the Bill be good or bad, it is too important, and too controversial, to go through this session, and that accordingly it will be at once withdrawn.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 118; Noes, 66. (Division List, No. 317.)

AYES.

Allsopp, Hon. George
 Arnold, Alfred
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt Josceline FitzRoy
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manc'r)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barnes, Frederic Gorell
 Barry, Rt. Hn. A. H. Smith- (Hunts)
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
 Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Beach, W. W. B. (Hants.)
 Bethell, Commander
 Bill, Charles
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
 Boscawen, Albert
 Brookfield, A. Montagu
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Caldwell, James
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
 Clarke, Sir Edward (Plymouth)
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Drage, Geoffrey

Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fletcher, Sir Henry
 Flower, Ernest
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. George's)
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Halsey, Thomas Frederick
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
 Hogan, James Francis
 Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
 Hughes, Colonel Edwin
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Corn)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lecky, Rt. Hn. William Edw. H.
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverpool)
 Lloyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lubbock, Rt. Hon. Sir John
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 M'Arthur, Chas. (Liverpool)
 M'Killop, James
 M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
 Manners, Lord Edward Wm. J.
 Middlemore, Jhn. Throgmorton
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)

Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Percy, Earl
 Perks, Robert William
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Purvis, Robert
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matt. W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Russell, Gen. F. S. (Chelt'nh.)
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Williams, Jos. Powell- (Birm.)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wyndham, George
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arroy
 Young, Commander (Berks. E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrand and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, W. (Cork, N.E.)
 Asher, Alexander
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Bainbridge, Emerson
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. B. (Clackm.)
 Birrell, Augustine
 Blake, Edward
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Campbell-Bannerman Sir H.
 Carvill, Patrick G. Hamilton
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Crilly, Daniel
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Dewar, Arthur
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Evans, Sir F. H. (South'on)
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Fenwick, Charles
 Foister, Sir W. (Derby Co.)

Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert Jn.
 Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. C. Seale-
 Hedderwick, Thomas Chas. H.
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hn. Sir U.
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumb'land)
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
 M'Crae, George
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Mappin, Sir Frederick T.
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Molloy, Bernard Charles
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)

O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Steadman, William Charles
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Tennant, Harold John
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wi son, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
 Woods, Samuel
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Buchanan and Captain
 Sinclair.

Main Question again proposed.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: Before the Bill is read a second time, I should like to—

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The

hon. Member has already spoken on the main question. The question is that the Bill be now read a second time.

The House divided—Ayes, 124; Noes, 69. (Division List, No. 318.)

AYES.

Allsopp, Hon. George
Arnold, Alfred
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r.
Balfour, Rt. Hn. Gerald W. (Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barry, Rt. Hn. A. H. Sm. (Hunts)
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Beach, W. W. Bramston (Hants.
Bethell, Commander
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, A. Montagu
Ballard, Sir Harry
Caldwell, James
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. Aust'n (Worc'r
Clarke, Sir Edward (Plymouth
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
Cook, F. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cox, Irwin Edward B.
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Curzon, Viscount
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, William Theodore
Drage, Geoffrey

Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir W. Hart
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Gedde, Sydney
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St George's
Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Gull, Sir Cameron
Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert Wm.
Heaton, John Henniker
Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Hogan, James Francis
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Corn
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool
Lecky, Rt. Hn. William Edw. H.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverpool
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdonald, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Killip, James
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Manners, Lord Edward Wm. J.
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Monk, Charles James
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morton, A. H. A. (Deftford)

Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Oldroyd, Mark
Percy, Earl
Perks, Robert William
Pierpoint, Robert
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richards, Henry Charles
Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, Gen. F. S. (Cheltenham)
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Seely, Charles Hilton
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Valentia, Viscount
Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Williams, Jos. Powell- (Birm.)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, George
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Asher, Alexander
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bainbridge, Emerson
Balfour, Rt. Hn. J. B. (Clackm.)
Birrell, Augustine
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Cameron, Sir C. (Glasgow)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carvill, Patrick George H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Clough, Walter Owen
Crilly, Daniel

Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Dalziel, James Henry
Dewar, Arthur
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Evans, Sir Francis H. (South'ton
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Foster, Sir W. (Derby Co.)
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Hrbt. John
Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Hedderwick, Thomas Chas. H.
Holland, W. H. (York, W. R.)

Horniman, Frederick John
Jacoby, James Alfred
Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hn. Sir U.
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
Lewis, John Herbert
Macaleese, Daniel
M'Arthur, Wm. (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
M'Ewan, William
M'Leod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand

Molloy, Bernard Charles
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Palmer, Sir Chas. M. (Durham)
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare

Pirie, Duncan V.
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Steadman, William Charles
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Tennant, Harold John
 Wallace, Robert

Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, J. Carvell (Notta.)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
 Woods, Samuel
 Yoxall, James Henry
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Buchanan and Captain
 Sinclair.

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

MILITARY WORKS BILL.

As amended, considered.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): I beg leave to move an Amendment restricting the item in the Schedule of "ranges, including accommodation for manœuvring and mobilisation," to the sums provided under the Military Works Act of 1897. My object in moving this Amendment is to carry out a pledge which I gave to the hon. Member for East Aberdeenshire.

Amendment proposed accordingly.

MR. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.): I thank the hon. Gentleman for his courtesy in accepting this Amendment, and so obviating a repetition of what happened under the Act of last year, when the Chancellor of the Exchequer allowed the Government, under the ambiguous phrase in question, to purchase land at Salisbury Plain, including the right hon. Gentleman's own property. The record of that transaction never came before the Public Accounts Committee, but was hidden away among the items in the Military Works Bill of that year.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EX-CHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS-BEACH): The hon. Member has made a personal charge against me, on which I must say a word. He has said that by a phrase or expression hidden away in the Military Works Act, 1897, the Government were enabled to purchase a large area at Salisbury Plain, including my property, for the purposes of manœuvres, without the knowledge of Parliament.

MR. BUCHANAN: I did not say that.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: I am not inclined to rest under what is obviously intended as a personal reflection, and I should just like to state in a very few sentences my connection with the matter. Some three years ago, very soon after the Government was formed, my noble friend the Secretary for War informed me that, in the opinion of himself and his advisers, it was necessary that the Government should obtain possession of a large area of land for the purpose of exercising troops. I suggested to him that, in my opinion, the most convenient place would be adjoining Aldershot, where, of course, the Government already possess a considerable area of land. He proved to me that land near Aldershot could only be purchased at about £100 an acre, and that it would be impossible, under the circumstances, to purchase there the large area of land that he required. I then suggested that an area should be purchased somewhere in the midland counties, and I think I indicated Cannock Chase. For reasons which appeared sufficient to my noble friend and the War Office, that area could not be chosen, on account of the nature of the ground, or something of that kind. He then said they had made up their minds, and they desired to purchase a large area at Salisbury Plain. I said that was not a matter on which I could say Aye or No, as the scheme must necessarily include property belonging to myself, and that if the Government decided on such a policy, I could not deal with it as Chancellor of the Exchequer, and that the Cabinet must deal with it without my advice. The Cabinet having adopted the policy, I requested my right hon. friend the First Lord of the Treasury and my right hon. friend the First Lord of the Admiralty, who had previously held the office of Chancellor of the Exchequer, to do what was properly my duty in the matter—namely, to check the financial aspect of the question. The whole transaction was carried out by them, acting with Lord Lansdowne, as Secretary

of State for War, and Parliament was completely informed of the intention of the Government to purchase this area by the present Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs when he brought in the Military Works Act of 1897. Subsequently, when it came to a question as to whether my property should be purchased and the price to be given for it, I took no part whatever in the decision; the whole matter was carried through by arbitration. Neither in the decision to take land on Salisbury Plain, nor in the purchase of my property, did I take any part. I think the hon. Member owes me some apology for his offensive and unfounded imputation.

MR. BUCHANAN: I must say I had no intention of making any imputation upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and if my words were susceptible of such an interpretation, I beg in the most unqualified way to withdraw them. What I did say was, that of the purchase of the property on Salisbury Plain, including that of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, there was no record in the public accounts, and it was paid for out of this item of "ranges, including accommodation for manœuvring and mobilisation." There is an ambiguity in the public accounts which I should think the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be himself anxious to remove, and I am glad that it will be removed by the Amendment. I desire once more in the most unqualified way to apologise to the Chancellor of the Exchequer if I have injured his feelings in any way—which was far from my intention—for, of course, we all know that the right hon. Gentleman is the very soul of honour.

Amendment agreed to.

Bill to be read the third time To-morrow.

PUBLIC WORKS LOANS [REMISSION OF DEBTS].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, That it is expedient to authorise the remission of certain debts due to the Commissioners of Public

Works in Ireland from certain boards of guardians in Ireland, and from the Wicklow Harbour Commissioners, in pursuance of any Act of the present session relating to Public Works Loans.

Resolution to be reported To-morrow.

HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE, CHANCERY DIVISION (ADDITIONAL JUDGE).

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): There is a motion down on the Paper in my name for an address to Her Majesty, asking for an additional judge to be added to the Chancery Division of the High Court. There was an addition to the judges of the Chancery Division, which was asked for, I think, authoritatively, by a Committee over which Lord Esher presided now a good many years ago, and subsequently to that I think two successive Governments, in 1886 and 1888 respectively, announced their intention of asking the House to grant this additional strength to the Chancery Division. For reasons which it is not necessary now to mention, these intentions never were carried out, and reforms which Lord Esher intended to inaugurate by the appointment of a new judge have in consequence never been carried into effect. Hence we are not only suffering from arrears of business due to an insufficient staff, but from arrears of business due to the imperfect condition of the courts which are dealing with Chancery business. I do not know that it is necessary for me to remind the House that, if these evils of arrears of business were already manifest as far back as 1886 and 1888, they have not diminished but increased since then; and inasmuch as the courts show no power to deal with the arrears which exist, it seems to be high time that steps should be taken to strengthen them. An hon. friend of mine put a question to me the other day on this subject, suggesting that additional strength to the Chancery Division should be taken from the Common Law Division, and cited a case which occurred recently, where a judge went down to Wales and found no judicial business laid before him, except that of releasing a youth upon his own recognisances—not a function of sufficient importance to make it necessary

to send a judge of the High Court down to Wales. But, Sir, while I am far from denying that in existing circumstances there may be, and perhaps must be, some undoubted loss of judicial strength, I doubt whether it is possible to have a circuit system at all in which a certain amount of waste is not necessary—I may go further and say that I am not prepared to deny that improved organisation may result in something material to prevent that waste; but when my hon. friend and those who think with him go a step further and say that, because there is now a certain waste of judicial strength, it is desirable that a judge should be lent by the Queen's Bench Division to the Chancery Division, I would point out that nobody, as far as I know, suggests that a judge could be permanently transferred from the Queen's Bench Division to the Chancery Division; and any relief from that source would take the form of lending a judge for a certain number of days in each year. Of the propriety of that course I am not in a position to form an opinion from any original observations or experience of my own; I have to take my opinions on trust; but those who are competent to advise me upon the point seem clear that the idea of lending a judge temporarily for a certain number of days in the year by one division to another is but a makeshift, and is likely to produce, on the whole, many inconveniences. I therefore, after consideration, reject that proposal, and I am more strengthened in that view by the fact that I understand that the Queen's Bench Division is not at the present moment of more than the proper strength to carry out the work that comes before it. I believe the Lord Chief Justice gave a somewhat rosy view of the condition of work in that division; but in recent years we have had to throw more work on the Queen's Bench Division than it used to have. A Railway Commissioner has been taken from amongst the judges, additional bankruptcy work has been thrown on it, and under an ecclesiastical Bill of a year or two ago further work of a different kind has been entrusted to it. In these circumstances I feel obliged to reject the suggestion. We are, therefore, brought face to face with the Chancery Division and the Chancery Division alone, and all we have to ask ourselves is, Can that division do the work the

public require of it? Ten years ago there were arrears, fifteen years ago there were arrears, and if we compare the statistics of the court at present with what they were ten years ago, we shall find that the arrears have been actually augmented. In those circumstances one of the primary duties of the House and the Legislature is to see that justice is administered to Her Majesty's lieges. I think there can be no doubt as to the propriety of the resolution I propose to the House. Cheap justice we shall never be able to give. That is an ideal to which no reformer has ever been able to attain; but if we cannot give cheap justice, we may do something towards speedy justice, and I think it would be a pity if the House should allow a state of things to continue under which one of the chief courts of the kingdom remains avowedly and undoubtedly undermanned.

Motion made, and question proposed—

"That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty, representing that the state of business in the High Court of Justice is such as to require the appointment of an additional judge, and praying that Her Majesty will be graciously pleased to appoint a new judge of the said High Court in the Chancery Division thereof, in pursuance of the eighteenth section of The Appellate Jurisdiction Act, 1876."—*(Mr. Balfour.)*

*SIR H. H. FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): I cordially agree with the closing remarks of the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House—that it is one of the primary duties of this House to secure, as far as possible, a speedy administration of justice. I also agree with him that in the present state of affairs in our courts there is very good ground for complaint as to delays, and I might also say the confusion which takes place under our present system. But I am not prepared at once to accept the remedy which the right hon. Gentleman proposes without venturing to submit one or two considerations to the House bearing on the question. I think we must remember that we are dealing on this occasion with an exceptional state of things. There is no doubt that the administration of justice has, during the last three months, been very seriously interfered with in this country by the absence from England of the Lord Chief

Mr. A. J. Balfour.

Justice, and of one of the Lords Justices of Appeal. Now, I should be the very last man to use any word which would imply any doubt—if any doubt at all existed—as to the extraordinary capacity and qualification which these two judges possess for the public duty they have undertaken. But I venture to think that the first duty of the Lord Chief Justice of England is the administration of justice in England, and that no public duty which could possibly be imposed upon him, at all events of an ordinary character, is any sufficient justification for the Government of the day removing him from the high judicial duties which he, and he alone, so long as he fills that office, can fill. I am aware that the lamented death of Lord Herschell created a vacancy which we all deplore, one which, perhaps, it was not unnatural the Government should for the moment think might best be filled by the appointment of another great judge. But Lord Herschell's position was essentially different from that of the Lord Chief Justice. The Lord Chief Justice has public duties at home to discharge—duties that I think are of greater importance to the suitors of this country than the settlement of the dispute on which he is at present arbitrating. Lord Herschell, on the other hand, had no such primary duties devolving upon him. I think the circumstances are aggravated by the fact that a very learned and eminent Lord Justice of Appeal was also taken away at the same time. In passing, I would only make this remark, that I do not think the resources either of diplomacy, or of statesmanship are exhausted, and I think, with all my admiration and respect for Lord Chief Justice Russell and Lord Justice Henn Collins, two other distinguished men might have been found whose selection would not have involved the very serious injury which I think has been inflicted upon the administration of justice in this country. But, passing from that, I admit that the normal state of affairs, even if these two judges had been at home, is most unsatisfactory, and I think the time has arrived when a remedy should be found. But I would ask the

House, whether the first consideration should not be whether our existing judicial time, and our existing judicial power, should not be better economised than at present, and whether we are getting—I will not say the most advantage—but the ordinary amount of advantage which we ought to get from so powerful, so expensive, and so valuable a machine as the judges of our Supreme Court constitute. Our difficulties arise both in criminal and civil trials, and it is to be regretted that our criminal judicial system, even now, allows so long an interval often to elapse between the committal of a prisoner for trial and his trial. It is a very poor consolation to a man who has been in prison three or four months to be discharged without a stain on his character. That is an evil which ought to be remedied at all costs, but is the course the right hon. Gentleman now proposes the best course to take? The circuit system is a very expensive and extravagant way of spending judicial power, and when I see judges sent round to try, not only quarter sessions cases, but insignificant quarter sessions cases, I feel that those who advise the Government have not considered the question of the readjustment of judicial time. So far as quarter sessions are concerned, I think they are steadily improving in their judicial character. There was a time when there was a just outcry for the appointment of officers to preside over quarter sessions similar or equivalent to the recorders who preside over borough sessions. But so far as I have been able to watch the trend of opinion amongst magistrates, the tendency of the last few years has been for magistrates to elect as chairmen of quarter sessions men who, though, perhaps, not practising lawyers, have displayed to a great extent the judicial faculty, and who have made excellent chairmen of quarter sessions. Without saying whether it is desirable or not to add to our Courts of Quarter Sessions trained judges, the extension of the jurisdiction of those courts would be an economical and a speedy mode of relieving the criminal business of the High Court, leaving to the judges of that court the criminal business of the more serious character. Then there is another waste of judicial power, irrespective of the distribution of circuit work—I mean the Divisional Courts. In the Chancery Division of the High Court one judge is considered sufficient to decide in court of

first instance matters of the gravest character, involving the largest amount of property and the most difficult questions of law. By what I think was not the intention of the Legislature in 1875, we have Divisional Courts consisting of two judges, and, as one of the judges said to me the other day, that means a divided responsibility and, to a great extent, so far as one judge is concerned, no responsibility at all. I think it is a waste of judicial power that two judges should be sitting on one side of the Courts of Justice to decide matters not comparable in magnitude and importance to those which on the other side are decided by one judge, and if that were reformed there would be great saving there of judicial power. There is another point, and perhaps this is the most important of all, and that is the anomalous and unsatisfactory condition of the county court jurisdiction. That jurisdiction is at present limited to £50. We have an expensive and elaborate system of county courts, an evolution from the old debt-collecting system. Many of the county court judges are most capable men and qualified to sit on the bench of the High Court. They, together with the registrars, administer, no doubt to some extent, a system of justice, but devote a great part of their time and energy simply to debt-collecting, fixing the times in which debts can be paid and ought to be paid. I think before the Government asked the House to make an addition to the High Court, they ought to have dealt with the question which was before the House in 1888, and again and again since—namely, the extension of the jurisdiction of the county courts, so that they would have the power to deal with a larger class of cases than they have now, leaving to the High Court the cases of greater magnitude. The question has been repeatedly brought before the House by the hon. Member for Gloucester, and those who have preceded him in the office of President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce, and an extension of the county court jurisdiction is the desire of all the commercial classes of the country. In 1888 a few reforms were introduced by means of the Consolidation of County Courts Act. I well remember that Mr. Gladstone was rather severe upon some of us who thought that that was an appropriate opportunity of trying to make some

amendments of the existing law in regard to the administration of county courts. I am happy to say that, notwithstanding his undoubted reluctance to introduce any Amendment in that Consolidation Act, laying down the sound and wise principle that a Consolidation Act should not alter the law, certain Members of this House, one of whom was the present Lord James, did effect some very valuable improvements in that Bill. But a great many improvements which were then suggested have never been carried out. There are some county court judges who do the full amount of judicial work that it is possible for judges to do, and they do it remarkably well. There are other county court judges who do not sit a hundred days in the year, and whose appointments are practically sinecures. There was a power given in the Consolidation Act to alter the districts and to distribute the judges; there was power given to the Executive to make the idle judges work harder and to relieve the judges of the great towns in their judicial work by the addition of other judges. But practically nothing has been done. There has been no redistribution of the circuits, and the old evils have gone on. We have not availed ourselves of the remedies at our hand, we have allowed these arrears to accumulate; and now, when the hereditary instincts of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to resist the appointment of an additional judge have been overcome, this rough-and-ready method is proposed, and things will go on as before. I very much regret that in the course of the session more time has not been given to the question of the administration of justice. I do not ask for more time in this House. I quite understand the great labour that devolves on the House of Commons and the Ministry of the day; but I think, if there was a branch of public administration which deserved and demanded the attention and supervision and reform of another place, it is the administration of justice. If a scheme of utilising, both in criminal and civil jurisdiction, our present staff of judges, of the readjustment of the limits of county court authority, had been matured in another place, this House and the country would have been very much indebted to that House, and some solid progress towards law reform would have been made. At all events, the present proposal does nothing; but we cannot refuse, and

Sir H. H. Fowler.

certainly I shall not refuse, to join in the motion of the right hon. Gentleman. I believe it to be a necessity, although I do not think it is the most excellent way of providing a remedy for the present state of things. The right hon. Gentleman has given up in despair the idea of cheap justice. Our justice is a long way from being cheap. It is the dearest system of justice in the world. I admit that it is the best ; but I think that every reform that has been made in the administration of justice, at all events during the last thirty years, has added enormously to the cost of justice and to the delay, has prolonged the time given to individual cases, and has produced, and is producing, a general state of dissatisfaction amongst all classes of the community. The present system cannot go on. The right hon. Gentleman has proposed a stop-gap, and that may, perhaps, stand the strain upon it for some little time, but sooner or later our judicial system will have to be reconstructed. It can be carried on, and ought to be carried on, at a much less cost and with much greater rapidity than at present, and I hope that some day a Minister will arise who will endeavour to carry out that reform, which is, perhaps, a greater reform than many others on which public attention is more generally concentrated.

*MR. SYDNEY GEDGE (Walsall) : I wish to associate myself generally with everything which has been said by my right hon. friend who has just sat down. I have been professionally connected with the administration of the law for five and forty years. This has certainly given me some experience in the matter, and I doubt whether matters were ever really in a worse condition during that time than they are now. All the reasons, I think, have not been mentioned. In the earlier days, I remember, it was the custom of the Lord High Chancellor himself to sit as a judge almost daily, except when he was engaged in the House of Lords. The work of a distinguished judge of that description was, of course, of very great assistance in clearing off arrears and in giving that speedy justice which is desired. I have even known a Lord Chancellor—Lord Selborne—to sit as a Judge of First Instance when there was a difficulty in the work being done. It is a very rare thing indeed for the present Lord Chancellor to sit, except in the

House of Lords, and now and then as one of the members of the Court of Appeal. Great advantage would be gained if his Lordship would occasionally—I do not say regularly—when not engaged in the House of Lords, sit as a judge in the Court of Chancery. Another reason why there are these arrears is that the work is not got through as it might be by the judges, and also the fact that there are a great many appeals which might be avoided. It is always a very disagreeable thing to say anything about anyone who is not present, and especially one does not like to make any invidious remarks with regard to any of the judges. At the same time, there is no doubt that a great deal of the way in which justice is administered depends upon the men who are selected to be judges, and the manner in which they are selected. It has been stated, not in this House, but in newspapers—not in newspapers of a party character, but in the law journals—that there is a great want of confidence in the manner in which judges have been selected by the present Lord High Chancellor.

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order ! I do not see how that is relevant to the question as to whether a new judge should be appointed.

*MR. SYDNEY GEDGE : I will show the relevancy. The relevancy is that if this judge is to be appointed by the Lord High Chancellor, some of us may have such a want of confidence in the appointment as to vote against this motion.

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order ! That is altogether remote from the question before the House.

*MR. SYDNEY GEDGE : I must, of course, bow to your ruling. I understand it is not open to me, in discussing the question whether another judge should be appointed, to make comment upon the manner in which judges are appointed. If that is your ruling, of course I must cease doing so, pointing out, however, that while every other public official is open to the criticism of this House, that particular public official is not so open, but can do what he pleases without interference from us. I will therefore go on to the other part to which I wish to call attention.

Under the old system you could choose your judge. You cannot do that now. The judge to whom a particular cause goes is fixed by ballot, and the consequence is that when you have a question of a particular character to be decided you have to take your chance of the matter being dealt with by a judge who is simply incompetent to decide such a question. I have in my mind the case of the construction of a will. It was a friendly suit. We would if we could have selected the judge to decide it, and all parties would have been content with his decision. The ballot took us before Judge B. His decision was so hopelessly and ridiculously wrong that on appeal it was laughed out of Court.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! Upon the motion which is now before the House, it is not competent for the hon. Member to discuss the decision or the conduct of a judge in the High Court.

*MR. SYDNEY GEDGE: I bow at once to your ruling, but I regret that it is not possible for me to justify, by instances inside the House, what is common talk outside.

SIR EDWARD CLARKE (Plymouth): Before this resolution is accepted, I should like to say a word or two on the larger question mentioned by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Wolverhampton. The acceptance of this resolution must be a matter of course to the House, because, as has been said by my right hon. friend, it is perfectly clear that the Government have felt, after many representations at different times, that it is impossible to refuse that relief which is required by the state of business in the Chancery Division, and the question of the expense of a new judge is a very small matter indeed, compared with the importance of enabling the Chancery Division to carry on its work. I entirely agree that the administration of justice in this country is now a matter which ought to be very seriously considered by the Government and by both Houses of Parliament. I am not prepared to agree entirely with some of the suggestions of my right hon. friend the Member for Wolverhampton, but it is clear that, with regard to the administration of the law at Quarter Sessions and the calls made upon judges of the High

Court to go about the country trying what are very often small and unimportant cases, there is room for a rearrangement of judicial work which would save a great deal of time, and—what I look upon as still more important—would save the inexcusable delay there is at present in the administration of criminal justice. A far more important thing than the question of the wasting of a day of the judges' time is the detaining of a man who may turn out to be innocent for three, four, or five months before he is tried. That is a much more important side of the question. I believe that, with regard to this question, we have something like a promise from Her Majesty's Government. I understand that the Lord Chancellor has said that it is not proposed to appoint a Commission. I am very glad that is so with regard to this matter, because all the facts are easily ascertainable, and the Lord Chancellor and the legal advisers of the Government are perfectly competent to make proposals on the subject. It was said that here, or in another place, proposals are to be made at an early period. I am glad that promise has been made, and I think we may wait with some confidence for the fulfilment of that promise, especially as the present Lord Chancellor is one of the most experienced lawyers in regard to the administration of criminal justice. He has distinguished himself as a Chancellor by the diligence with which he has discharged his judicial duties both in the House of Lords and in the Privy Council, and, when necessary, in the Court of Appeal. He is one of the greatest judges we have, and certainly one of the most diligent. No doubt there is room for some rearrangement of the work in connection with the county courts. The present county court judges all over the country are almost overburdened with work, and it would be impossible, without making considerable changes in the staff of county court judges, to deal with the jurisdiction of the county courts owing to the important matters which are remitted to them from the High Court. Of course, this proposal before the House refers to the Chancery Division, and is intended only for the relief of the Chancery Division; but the administration of justice in the Queen's Bench Division is at the present time in a very unsatisfactory state. We are now deprived of the presence in the law courts

Mr. Sydney Gedge.

of two of our most distinguished judges. I do not know why the Lord Chief Justice was taken away from his proper duties and removed from that which ought to be the occupation of his life—the superintendence and direction of the affairs of the Queen's Bench Division—in order to sit upon an Arbitration Commission in Paris. But there is one matter in regard to the administration of justice in the Queen's Bench Division, which is not only a mischief to the public, but is also a great inconvenience and disadvantage to the judges themselves. The judges now, in consequence of the change which has done away with the three divisions of the Common Law Courts, have become, practically, a crowd of judges having no special duty or relationship one to the other, and the arrangements for the discharge of their work are not superintended by any judicial direction at all, so far as I know, but depend upon a casual list drawn up by some under officer, and no judge of the Queen's Bench Division knows from day to day what he has to do, or where he will be called upon to sit. It is a very grave misfortune, and I hope, if there is to be any serious attempt to consider the administration of justice in all its branches in this country—and the time is quite ripe for it—there may be serious consideration to see whether it is not possible to restore the old plan under which there were three divisions of the Common Law Courts, under which we had the Exchequer dealing mainly with revenue matters, the Queen's Bench dealing with Crown affairs, and the Court of Common Pleas dealing more especially with commercial business, and in which we had a Court of Appeal which was the best ever invented. The old system of three divisions created *esprit de corps* among the judges, and it made each judge interested in the success of his own division. I do trust that the question of restoring that old system of the threefold division of the Common Law Courts will be seriously considered when an inquiry is made into this matter. With regard to the appointment of an additional Chancery Judge, I think every lawyer will be grateful to the Government for relieving the pressure by consenting to the appointment of another judge. I only hope that they will also undertake the larger and more important task, and that in the near future they will make some pro-

posals which will have the effect of giving a more satisfactory administration of justice in all the High Courts.

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester): In giving notice to oppose this by a Division, it is not my desire and intention to say one word wanting in respect to the judges of the High Courts. We have known many of them here, and we have known them outside. We have the greatest regard for all their merits, and all of them we respect when once they become commissioned as one of Her Majesty's judges. We do that on account of our desire to gain respect and consideration for the law as well as for those who administer it. My objection to this motion is that I cannot help thinking that if the Government like to take the trouble to rearrange and reorganise the judicial system, they will find that there are plenty of judges to do the work that is necessary to be done, and it might be done well and probably in less time than it is now done. There is the case which the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Wolverhampton has mentioned, of a judge going on circuit for three weeks to pick up a little case which might just as well have been dealt with by some county court judge. There are numerous instances where judges go on circuit and practically have no work to do. The South Wales instance is a notorious case, where a judge goes prancing about from town to town at enormous cost, and involving an enormous waste of time; and whilst cases are waiting to be tried in London, our judges are careering about round a remote part of the United Kingdom with nothing whatever to do except to kill time and to incur cost. Why should we not make the re-arrangement roughly sketched by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Wolverhampton, and then this increased expenditure with regard to the judges would be altogether unnecessary. My opinion is that the judges might systematically sit a few hours longer than they do now. They are highly paid, and they hold positions of great dignity. They hold positions which are sought after by many members of the Bar. I know there are members of the Bar earning so much money in their profession that they would not leave it in order to take the position of a judge; but it is not always the best

lawyers who make the best judges. I have seen—

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is getting away altogether from the question before the House.

MR. BROADHURST: Yes, I think, perhaps, I am. My contention is that there are at present quite sufficient judges if the time and work were so distributed as to employ them a reasonable number of hours per day, and a reasonable number of days per year. I should think the long vacation could very easily and advantageously be shortened. The judges take three months' holiday in the autumn; they have holidays again at Christmas, and I believe there is another vacation at Easter; and then a large portion of the time of the judges is spent on circuit, which is very much of the nature of holidays also, and the duties of a judge may become a succession of holidays. I think, when we are so parsimonious in dealing with other branches of the public service, we ought to review the position of the judges. It was only the other day that we learned from one of the Ministers of the Crown that all men between sixty and sixty-five years of age, according to their physical capacity, were to be discharged from the public service without any pension or any consideration at all.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! I must point out to the hon. Member that the matter he is discussing does not arise upon the question as to whether the time of one judge can be saved without any new appointment.

MR. BROADHURST: My intention was to show that the money which is now going to be expended in the appointment of another judge, which I consider to be unnecessary, would have been much more profitably expended in connection with the pensioning of some of our old public servants; but, if I am out of order, I will not further pursue that argument. It was strongly in my mind, and I could not suppress it, and I apologise for letting it out. I do appeal to the Leader of the House, whose sweet reasonableness is susceptible to appeals even from this side of the House, whether it would not be advisable for him to withdraw this motion this session, and take the time between now and the next session in framing such a scheme or rearrangement of the judicial

Mr. Broadhurst.

work of the country as will make this motion unnecessary. That is my point, and I do hope the right hon. Gentleman will take that course. I am not a lawyer, and that is my misfortune, but I cannot help thinking that some arrangement might be made whereby circuit work might be concentrated in particular parts of the country. Of course, the objection to this would be that it would be costly to the litigant who lived a long way from the court; but in my judgment it would be far cheaper to the country to pay the personal expenses of the litigant, for in that way you might save sufficient of the judges' time to more than compensate for the cost of travelling and other expenses of the litigants. In the case of North Wales, for instance, you might have Chester as the centre, or some other equally important place, such as Carnarvon, where all the North Wales cases might be concentrated. Look at the enormous saving of time and money this concentration would accomplish. If you take this reasonable and common-sense course in the reorganisation of your judicial system, there is no reason why you should appoint an additional judge at all, and in all probability, in the course of a year or two, you may be able to discharge a few judges. I really think that would be the case, and we should get justice more quickly administered than it is now. I feel that this motion on the part of the Government is one which is unnecessary, although I make no reflection on the judges, for they are simply the creatures of the system. If a judge is idle for a day, a week, a fortnight, or three weeks, as was the case in South Wales, it is not the judge who is to be found fault with and criticised, although he has to bear the blame at the hands of a great many laymen who do not understand the present organisation. A judge is the creature of circumstances, and he must go where he is bidden to go; and if time is wasted, and money is poured out like water, it is not his fault, but the fault of the Government, who do not take the trouble to carry out a little reform in the way of reorganisation, which is certainly wanted and highly necessary in many parts of the country, and which would save all necessity for mischievous motions such as the right hon. Gentleman has moved to-night. From my experience as a layman I do think that there is a

great deal of work now done by the judges which might be perfectly well dealt with by Quarter Sessions. He is perfectly right in saying that in many Quarter Sessions districts the chairman is no longer the old port-drinking squire. In most cases he is at present a man of large experience in public affairs, and is often quite as capable of dealing with many of the small cases now sent to the assizes as the judge himself. I think if the Government would take the advice of my right hon. friend in that respect, an enormous amount of time might be saved in our assize courts. I also believe that much of the work of Quarter Sessions might be given to Petty Sessional Courts, which ought to have the power to deal with many of the cases which are now sent up to Quarter Sessions.

SIR EDWARD CLARKE dissented.

MR. BROADHURST: Perhaps the hon. Member for Plymouth does not practise in Petty Sessional Courts, for he is a past master in the High Courts. By increasing the powers of Petty Sessional Courts, I think the work of Quarter Sessions might be considerably lightened with advantage. Why cannot this work be undertaken, for the right hon. Gentleman and his colleagues have plenty of time? He has the highest skilled advice he can get, and if the advice of the Solicitor-General is insufficient, surely the Member for Walsall might be called in for assistance. I cannot imagine why the right hon. Gentleman does not take that course, instead of coming to the House to make further calls upon the public revenue for work which could easily be done by the present bench of judges if their work was properly re-arranged. I shall certainly divide the House, if anyone will vote with me, against this motion, because I think the proposal is entirely unnecessary and unwise in the public interest.

MR. RICHARDS (Finsbury, E.): After the speech we have just heard from the hon. Gentleman the Member for Leicester, I think we shall all agree that his experience as Under Secretary to the Home Department has not made him acquainted with the necessity of having trained lawyers to deal with matters of this kind. Does anyone contend that the humble peasant would prefer to be tried at Quarter Sessions

instead of by one of Her Majesty's judges? I venture to say it is the inalienable right of every Englishman to be tried by one of Her Majesty's judges in the county in which he has been committed, and I cannot help remarking that the speech of the hon. Member for Leicester shows his ignorance of circuit matters. I can tell him that Her Majesty's judges do sit late and early in order to enable them to get to the next Assize town on the day when the Commission is opened. I have been in towns where the present Lord Brampton has sat till twelve o'clock at night, and I have known Mr. Justice Vaughan Williams sit from eight o'clock in the morning until twelve o'clock in the evening, in order to be at the next town by the Commission day. But what I want the House to realise is that all this has nothing whatever to do with the question of appointing an additional Chancery Division judge. The experiment of sending Chancery judges on circuit has been tried, but it was not continued for more than two years. I think it would be equally unsatisfactory to transfer judges from the Queen's Bench division to try Chancery cases. Does the hon. Member for Leicester, or the hon. Member for Walsall, suggest that the Chancery Division is too fully equipped with judges? I am sorry the hon. Member for Walsall has departed, because I am very much surprised that he did not deal with the matter touched upon by the Member for Wolverhampton in reference to the question of cheap justice. I can only say that the ratepayers of London found cheap justice impossible while the hon. Member for Walsall was connected with the London School Board. As one who knows something of the circuit system, I venture to say that it is not on the criminal side that we have to look for any alteration. With regard to the administration of justice in reference to crime in this country, I think Her Majesty's judges are the proper persons to deal with it in each county. I believe the Lord Chancellor has under consideration a scheme for concentrating the work of the circuits, but I am sure nothing will be done which will deprive the humblest peasant in every county of the opportunity of having his case tried by one of Her Majesty's judges. The right hon. Member for Wolverhampton has spoken of a Chairman of Quarter Sessions with whom he is acquainted; but I know some-

thing of a Chairman of Quarter Sessions in other districts who is not a port-drinking squire, but who is one of the most incompetent Chairmen I ever came across. He is a teetotaler, and presides regularly at the meetings of the Young Men's Christian Association, and it would be a disgrace to send cases before that man which ought to be tried before a judge. A great deal is said about the waste of time on circuit, but what about the number of cases that are continually left over in the Chancery Division? The right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Wolverhampton is quite wrong in his opinion with regard to Divisional Courts. I think it is only right that when an appeal comes from a judge in chambers or from a county court judge it should be decided by two judges and not by one. I only rose to protest against the suggestion that those who know anything of circuit work from practical experience have any desire to alter the circuit system, so that the trial of prisoners could be transferred to Quarter Sessions or that counties should be grouped. Both would be unjust to prisoners and to the witnesses for the defence. I should have thought that the experience that the hon. Member for Leicester had at the Home Office would have taught him that one of the great difficulties which prisoners of the humbler class have to face is to get witnesses to attend at the assize town unless the county pays the expense. To ask those witnesses to come 100 or 200 miles away from their own homes would be a gross injustice on the humbler classes of society.

MR. BROADHURST : I propose to pay their expenses.

MR. RICHARDS : I am glad the hon. Member is a convert to that extent, but his remark is not an answer to the question, Does the Chancery Division to-day need another judge? I am sure the hon. Member is only influenced by a desire to do justice, but I hope he will not prevent this resolution from being unanimously carried. I regret that the hon. Member for Walsall, who used this opportunity to make an attack on a judge, was not present to hear my remarks upon it.

*MR. HALDANE (Haddingtonshire) : Many topics of a varying degree of interest, and of a still more varying degree of relevancy, have been discussed in connection

Mr. Richards.

with this motion, which, after all, only relates to the appointment of an additional judge in the Chancery Division. I was extremely glad to hear from the hon. and learned Member for Plymouth that the Government are about to make some proposals for the reform of the judicial system of the country, which would afford an opportunity of full discussion in this House. I am sure such an occasion would be of great interest, and that the whole matter of the administration of justice would be debated very fully, with a view to the removal of what is conceded to be the very great evils of the existing system. The present state of business in the Chancery Division is somewhat serious. It is business of a peculiar kind, which cannot be patched up or dealt with by importing temporary assistance, and which is quite different from the business at assizes or quarter sessions, or even in the Queen's Bench. Owing to the way in which the Government keep the accounts, one would imagine that the cost of the Chancery Division is excessive, but a large part of the Chancery business is concerned with the administration of funds in court which result in a very great profit to the Exchequer. They do not come into the ordinary judicial estimates, but they fully justified the Government in seeing that the administration of funds and property is sufficiently and satisfactorily carried on. The more efficient the provision is for that business, the more revenue there is for the Exchequer. But this is a question of more than money. In the Chancery Division there are tried suits of a more particular degree of intricacy and peculiar importance than on the other side. They go to the Chancery Division because they have that characteristic, and the public chooses that division because they want a careful and thorough sifting of complicated and intricate issues, which can only be done by a judge armed with the peculiar machinery possessed by the Chancery Division, and which is available for the purpose of working out that peculiar kind of legal problem. In the present congested state of business in the Chancery Division there is a system of sending down cases to be tried elsewhere, with the result that the cases are mangled, and great dissatisfaction is manifested on the part of suitors. Surely, the business of the Chancery Division is important enough to have it efficiently

performed. That, however, cannot be done by asking the judges to sit longer hours. I think the long vacation might be curtailed, but as far as the hours are concerned, speaking from twenty years' experience, I should like the House to note the diary of the life of a Chancery judge. On Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday he sits in court from half-past ten a.m. to four p.m., and on Saturday from half-past ten to four, working as hard as any man can work. On Monday he sits in Chambers from half-past ten a.m., not until four o'clock, but until five o'clock, six o'clock, or seven o'clock in the evening, and I think it is impossible to put more work on the shoulders of the existing Chancery judges. Some are quick and some are slow, but as far as I have been able to observe, there is no more hard-working and conscientious set of public servants in the country. The Government have been pressed for a long time to appoint another judge, and if they are to be blamed at all, they are only to be blamed because they have not brought forward this resolution before. The motion has my support, and among those who are really familiar with the deplorable state of the case, there can be only one opinion.

MR COGHILL (Stoke-upon-Trent): I think the First Lord of the Treasury somewhat misunderstood the proposal which I ventured to make to him the other day. I suggested that a judge from the Queen's Bench Division should be transferred, not temporarily, but permanently to the Chancery Division; I meant that in future there should be six judges in the Chancery Division, and only fourteen in the Queen's Bench Division, because, although Chancery judges are hard worked at the present time, I do not think that the same remark applies to judges of the Queen's Bench Division. We have the Report of the Bar Counsel, stating that a great waste of time takes place on circuit, and I think some alteration of that system ought to be made before we appoint an additional judge. Those who read the newspapers cannot have helped noticing that a judge of assize recently adjourned his Court in order to be present at a cricket match. If the First Lord of the Treasury made a similar proposal to us, I for one would support him, but then we are not paid at the rate of £5,000 a year. This question ought to be looked

at, not merely from the point of view of the practising lawyer, but also from the point of view of the tax-payer. From the latter point of view, I cannot understand the attitude of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. When he introduced his Budget, he lectured us on our extravagance, and now he puts this additional burden on the tax-payers, which it seems to me might well be spared, because if we get more work out of the existing staff of judges there is no need for it. The question arises, Can we get more work out of the present staff? The hon. and learned Member for Haddingtonshire said that the judges could not sit longer hours, and I quite agree; but if the vacations were curtailed, I think we could get much more work from the judges than at the present time. The judges have now three weeks' holidays at Christmas, ten days at Easter, ten days at Whitsuntide, and two and a half months during the long vacation. That amounts to nearly four months in the year, which is too long a holiday for those drawing £5,000 per annum. I think we ought to see whether the judges would not put up with a much shorter vacation. If you appoint an additional judge, it will only mean one extra judge sitting for eight months of the year; but if twenty judges sit one month more in the year than at present, you get twenty months of additional judicial time per annum. I would venture to suggest that the Whitsuntide vacation should be given up altogether. It is not too much to ask a judge to sit from Easter until the 11th or 12th of August, after which he will have over two months' vacation. The point I wish to submit to the First Lord of the Treasury is whether, before he asks us to incur this additional charge, he could not see whether the judges could not work one month more a year without breaking down in health. If there were any sign of a judge breaking down under the strain placed upon him, I would be the last person to ask that the judicial holidays should be curtailed.

*MR. BAINBRIDGE (Lincolnshire, Gainsborough): I wish to bring before the House one point which has not been mentioned in this Debate. I presume that the Government would only be too glad to have suggested to them any means by which the present Chancery judges and the existing Chancery Courts can carry on their work without increase of

staff. I will put a common-sense and practical suggestion before the House. In doing so, I would wish to draw attention to the contrast which exists between the mode of procedure in the Chancery Courts and in the Court of Session in Scotland. It is perhaps not known to the House and to the First Lord that at the present time the Chancery judges take down in longhand nearly every word given in evidence by a witness, whereas in the Court of Session the evidence is taken down by a sworn shorthand writer, and the work is naturally done in a very much shorter time. If this proper and necessary change were made, and an effete and an out-of-date system was abolished the whole work of the Chancery Division could be easily done by the present judges. I am speaking, not in the interests of hon. and learned Members who shine in this House, and who earn their livelihood elsewhere, but in the interests of suitors and of the taxpayer; and I venture to think that if my proposal were adopted, thousands of pounds would be saved by the country, and scores of thousands of pounds would be saved by litigants, and the judges themselves would have the advantage of a much more accurate report than if they depended on their own notes. I venture to recommend the suggestion to the First Lord of the Treasury and to the House.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES (Durham, N.W.): I will not attempt to cover the very wide field traversed by the hon. and learned Member for Plymouth. I will only say that I quite associate myself with his observations, except in so far as he approves of the appointment of an additional Chancery judge. I may say at once, in order to remove all misconception, that I recognise that the present Chancery judges are, if anything, overworked, and I recognise the zeal and diligence they display in the discharge of their duties, and also that the character of their work is exceedingly difficult and responsible. But, although I make these concessions, I shall certainly associate myself with my hon. friend the Member for Leicester in dividing against this proposal. I should like to know whether the new judge is to be a judge simply for the trial of causes, or is it proposed that he shall have chambers, and all the paraphernalia attaching to a Chancery judge who

Mr. Buinbridge.

has to deal with other matters. It is said, and said truly, that judges are overworked, but let me invite attention to the fact that the total number of days on which a judge sits, including Chamber work, averages 206 per year. That is the return in the latest judicial statistics. That is not the fault of any particular judge; it is the result of our system of legal vacations. Then, with regard to the trial of actions; the Chancery judges sit five days a week for that purpose. The total number of actions tried by Mr. Justice North during the last year for which statistics are available was thirty-seven, and the total number tried by Mr. Justice Stirling was precisely the same. Curiously enough, Mr. Justice Kekewich tried no fewer than 139 cases, and I do not pretend to know the cause of the disparity. Mr. Justice Romer tried seventy-eight, and Mr. Justice Byrne 128. Compared with the number of cases tried by a judge in the Queen's Bench Division, the disparity is remarkable. I draw attention to those figures for the purpose of asking what is the cause of the extraordinary slowness with which cases are disposed of in the Chancery Division. It is very largely due to the considerable number of cases involving long technical investigation that are now imported into the Chancery Division. Hon. and learned Members will confirm me when I say that a single cause, say a patent case, relating to a bicycle or sewing machine, will occupy a judge ten, fifteen, or even twenty days. I have had an opportunity of talking this matter over with persons competent to express an opinion, and I venture to suggest that, if we could relieve the Chancery judges of these long technical causes, instead of Mr. Justice North and Mr. Justice Stirling being only able to try thirty-seven cases, they would be able to try double and triple that number. It would be perfectly possible for cases of this sort to be sent to experts or to official referees, who would deal with the expert evidence and report to the judge, who would then be able to frame his judgment. This is no crude suggestion, and, although I will not mention names, I know it has the approval of at least two eminent judges. Then, again, there is another cause of the congestion of the Chancery Division. It is the common practice of solicitors to set down actions there when they might properly be tried elsewhere. One of the

most eminent solicitors in the City of London told me that, whenever he had an opportunity, he always set down cases in the Chancery Division. Something may be said about a more careful trial, but the chief reason is that the scale of remuneration for solicitors is higher in the Chancery Division. I have given these two reasons against the appointment of a new judge. I can assure hon. Members that I am not approaching this question in any Party spirit, but I ventured to intervene in this Debate, because I have taken some interest, very ineffectual I am afraid, in the reform of the administration of the law. The Bar Committee has condemned in the most unqualified way the present Circuit system, as a disgraceful and scandalous waste of judicial time. The Press of the country, from *The Times* downwards, has, by leading articles, and by correspondence from eminent lawyers, drawn attention to that scandalous state of things. But no attention whatever has been paid to these representations, although they have extended over a number of years. Do hon. Members really appreciate what the circumstances are? Do they understand that, although the vacations eat up nearly one-half of the whole calendar, half of the remaining moiety is appropriated by the judges, who ought to be trying actions in London, to travelling about the assize towns? I do not blame the judges; I do not say a word against the bench in that respect, although I should not be afraid to do so if necessary. But a couple of learned judges go down to some remote Circuit town, where one prisoner is set down for trial, and three or four days are given to that trial. Then they go on to an adjoining county town, and four days are there occupied with, perhaps, no prisoner at all to try. That is a true and not exaggerated statement. Now, why, in the name of common sense, is this archaic system not dealt with? I am not going to enter at large into this matter, but at least, if you will not change the system, you should have some plan by which a learned judge might go and deal with the crime of a district at a convenient centre. Many of the crimes might as well, however, be tried at the Quarter Sessions. A man ought only to have the right of being tried by a judge if he is charged with having committed a crime of a given gravity; but there are a great number of cases which are dealt with now by judges

of Assize, which might very properly be sent to the Quarter Sessions. For these reasons, and I might give many more, I object to the present proposal. I fully recognise the strain that is on the Chancery judges, but I ask the Solicitor-General to give a plain answer to these questions—What is the difficulty in the way of referring these long patent cases, which eat up so much time, to some referees who would take the technical parts of the evidence? and, What is the reason why solicitors are encouraged and permitted to enter on the Chancery side actions which might very properly be tried on the Queen's Bench side? Unless I have more cogent reasons than have been given in the very general observations of the late Solicitor-General for the appointment of a new judge, I shall feel myself bound to associate myself with the hon. Member for Leicester, and to vote against the proposal.

*MR. TOMLINSON (Preston): If anyone were to take the estimates of the expense of judicial administration, and deduct the amount received in fees, he would inevitably come to the conclusion that there must be courts which more than pay expenses. That must be so, at any rate, in the Chancery Division. And it is right that it should be so, because it deals with large quantities of property, and those who call upon the judicial system of the country to administer their property should pay for it. The more cases, therefore, which are heard, the larger the surplus from the fees that come in. If you increase the judicial staff, the more you will increase the fees, and consequently the appointment of a new judge in that Division will not cost the country anything.

*MR. LAWSON WALTON (Leeds, S.): The speeches of more than one hon. Member have been so full, that there is very little for me to say in accepting the proposal which the Government has made for dealing with the present administration of the law. That proposal has been subjected to a great deal of criticism, and there is a very obvious feeling that the Government's suggestion does not adequately settle this complicated and extremely important question. The remedy proposed for the block of business in

one division of the courts is to relieve the congestion of causes by the very simple expedient of appointing a new judge. Now, anyone familiar with the administration of the business of the courts knows that this congestion of work is not confined to one division, and no adequate method of dealing with this question can be effective until many reforms, some of which have been foreshadowed during the Debate, have been considered by competent authority and dealt with by the Government. As I have said, the proposal now is to remedy the congestion in the Chancery Division; but I must point out to the House that there is another important Division—the Queen's Bench Division, where difficulties are scarcely less great than in the Chancery Division. The Queen's Bench has more than once come to the assistance of the sister courts. The company business and the bankruptcy business has been taken from the Chancery Division to the Queen's Bench, and has absorbed the time of one of the judges in the Queen's Bench Division, and the result has been that at this moment the Queen's Bench Division is in a condition which has scarcely any parallel—at all events in the recent experience and history of the courts. The metropolitan courts administer justice for over five millions of people living in London. They also administer justice in these courts to parties not only in London, but from every part of England and Wales. For the last few weeks there have been some three or four courts, and sometimes only two courts, dealing with the litigation of this large number of people. I often wonder that the Members for the metropolis don't insist upon a guaranteed minimum—a few years ago there was some talk that there should be a guaranteed minimum—of six courts administering justice in the High Courts of Justice in the metropolis. The condition of the metropolitan courts now indicates a complete collapse of the machinery of the Queen's Bench Division. Are there any explanations for this state of things? A common cause assigned is the existence of the much-abused circuit system. No lawyer is wedded to the circuit system; it is antiquated, troublesome, and costly; but the friends of the circuit system are the members of the various counties in this country who sit

in this House, and are most anxious that that time-honoured method of administering justice locally at the hands of the Queen's Justices should not be seriously impaired. It is this strong feeling which has hedged the circuit system from all attacks, and I doubt whether Her Majesty's Government would have the courage to bring forward any proposal to interfere with it. Accept that as a condition of the administration of justice in this country. The people of the country prefer the circuit system, and they are willing to pay for the circuit system, and I do not see any reason for failing to gratify the popular wish. What is the next suggestion? It is that made by my right hon. friend the Member for Wolverhampton. He told us that we might relieve the courts of some of the cases by sending them to be tried by the County Court judges. If these judges are to do the work of some of the High Court Justices, you will require a new order, a subordinate order in the judiciary to dispose of the business of the present County Court judges. I fail to see how that argument can be founded on any consideration of expense, or that the change would do more than complicate the system of justice as it exists. The only remaining suggestion is an increase in the number of judges. Of course I don't object to the staff of the courts being sufficient to administer justice in a way to command public confidence and general satisfaction; but until there has been a thorough examination of this question I doubt if this expedient will be accepted as the only expedient which, under existing conditions, should be adopted. Why should we not take into consideration the very grave difficulties connected with the present position of the Court of Appeal? The hon. and learned Member for Plymouth said that under the ancient system we had an admirable Court of Appeal, which dealt most efficiently with the business before it. But at this moment there are no less than 170 cases standing for hearing in the Court of Appeal. Appeals arising out of the Workmen's Compensation Act and questions of mere legal procedure have, since the abolition of the Divisional Courts, been sent to judges of exceptional position and qualification, and the result has been that for weeks, if not months, the Court of Appeal is in arrear with their ordinary

Mr. Lawson Walton.

work. It is obvious that something must be done. My hon. and learned friend the Member for Plymouth suggested—and I was glad to see the suggestion was welcomed in authoritative quarters on this side—that if we could revive the old method of having three Divisional Courts in the Queen's Bench Division; if we could fan once more into flame the *esprit de corps* which used to animate Her Majesty's Judges in the conduct of business before them; if, instead of having one Chief Justice to preside over a large body of judges, you had smaller bodies of judges of exceptional experience dealing with special classes of cases, we should find it unnecessary to increase the present staff. I hope that the First Lord of the Treasury will take the suggestion I have made into serious consideration between now and the next session.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir R. B. FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): I do not propose to go at any length into the various suggestions made in the course of the Debate in reference to the work of the Queen's Bench Division. Indeed I doubt whether I should be altogether in order in doing so. I do not think there is any probability of a return to the system of having three separate Divisions of the High Court. I do not believe that is practicable. We must look in another direction for a solution of the difficulty by which we are beset. There was very great force, I think, in what has been said as to the uncertainty of the sittings in London. One week you have only two or three judges sitting, in another week you have so many judges that there are not courts sufficient for them to sit in, and they must either crowd together in greater numbers than are wanted or take a compulsory holiday. I believe a very great deal could be done by the adoption of another system, telling off, some time before the beginning of every term, so many judges for work in town, each to sit in his own court during the term, just as the Chancery judges do, the other judges to hold sittings in the country. The old circuit system has undoubtedly broken down, but sittings in the country might be arranged so that you would have in every term so many judges sitting regularly in town and so many sitting regularly in the country. Now,

the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Wolverhampton said that some reform was wanted with regard to the Divisional Courts. That is a matter on which I have felt strongly, and I had the honour, as a private Member, of carrying through the House a Bill which took away new trials from the Divisional Courts to the Court of Appeal; and that has been supplemented by other legislation in the same direction. But I think the right hon. Gentleman overlooked the fact that there is a certain class of business in the Queen's Bench Division for which you must have more than one judge. There is all the Crown work, all the Revenue work, and the appeals from inferior courts. What is really wanted with regard to the Divisional Court or the Court *in Banc*—for I prefer that time-honoured name—is more uniformity in its composition. I should like to see a strong Court *in Banc* with the Chief Justice presiding, and if you had that, I believe four sittings a year of ordinarily limited duration would be quite sufficient to keep under all the work. From that court I would have no appeal except to the House of Lords, and I believe the Court of Appeal might be materially relieved by transferring to such a Court *in Banc* such appeals as those brought under the Workmen's Compensation Act and from the judge in Chambers. I will turn from this tempting subject—for it is tempting to develop the views I have upon it—and only say one word with reference to a matter which concerns both divisions. It has been said that the scale of taxation ought to be not merely in theory but in practice uniform for the two divisions. I cordially agree with that. In theory the scale of taxation is the same, but in practice, for some inscrutable reason, the scale of taxation in the Chancery Division is more liberal. After all, the question is whether there should be a new judge for the Chancery Division. What are the alternative suggestions? One is that the Queen's Bench Division should lend a judge. That, I think, is quite impracticable. It would disorganise the business of the Queen's Bench, and it would not be satisfactory to the borrowing division. Another suggestion is that a judge should be transferred permanently from the Queen's Bench to the Chancery Division. There are two answers to that. In the first place the Queen's Bench Division cannot spare a judge, and, in the

second place, for Chancery work you want an Equity man, and I think either of those answers would be sufficient. It has been suggested that the vacations might be shortened, and that time might be saved by having an official shorthand writer. There is a great deal to be said for both those suggestions, but I do not believe either of them or both of them together would supply the pressing want which is now experienced in the Chancery Division of another judge. The question is whether the Chancery Division should have another judge. That judge, of course, must have his clerk, but if any question should be raised as to whether he should have a staff, such as is attached to most of the judges of the Chancery Division, it would come up for after consideration. The hon. and learned Member below the gangway opposite said that the work of the Chancery Division might be lightened by transferring a great many of the heavy cases to official referees or experts. I say at once I think that would be a most mischievous system.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES: I did not suggest the reference of cases; I suggested that scientific or expert evidence might be referred to an official referee, or some other person, whose duty it would be to report thereon to the judge.

SIR R. B. FINLAY: One has often heard such a suggestion made, but I think the general experience of the profession is that a double trial of that kind is most unsatisfactory. When you come back to the report of the expert you do not know where you are. Very possibly it may be found necessary either that the judge should take a leap in the dark or send back to the expert in order to clear up a point. I cannot agree with my hon. and learned friend that that suggestion of his presents even the possibility of a solution; and having examined all the other suggestions which have been made, we come back to that made by my right hon. friend the First Lord of the Treasury, which I hope the House will adopt unanimously.

MR. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E.): The discussion has travelled over a very wide field; and indeed it is impossible ade-

Sir R. B. Finlay.

quately to debate the question whether a fresh judge should be appointed to the Chancery Division without glancing at the general features—many of them very unsatisfactory—of the present system of administering justice. For my own part, I confess that I look with reluctance, and even with suspicion, at the proposal to increase our judicial staff. It is so much the easiest way of avoiding difficulties, and blinding your eye to the existence of abuses, that one is tempted to take it. But I must say I am satisfied, not only with what has been said, but by my knowledge and experience of the ordinary working of the courts, that this is a case in which the appointment of an additional judge is irresistible and unanswerable. The condition of suits in the Chancery Division, the long arrears of cases untried, and the impossibility of the judges, who are already overworked, overtaking the duties which the law imposes upon them, is a condition so undeniable and so scandalous as to make it imperative for Parliament to increase the present staff. But while I entirely assent to the motion which the right hon. Gentleman has made, I trust that, after the discussion which has taken place, Her Majesty's Government will not regard this as a solution of the difficulty. It has been admitted by every speaker, and by no one more than by the Solicitor-General, that the present arrangements are chaotic, unbusinesslike, and in the highest degree unsatisfactory. Some reference was made to the simultaneous absence on a foreign mission of the Lord Chief Justice and another of Her Majesty's judges of the High Court. I am sure the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Wolverhampton and the hon. and learned Member for Plymouth, when they referred to that, did not mean to cast any blame whatever either on the Lord Chief Justice or the Government which selected him for the position. I am perfectly certain the task was undertaken from a high sense of public duty. When you consider that the United States are represented by the Lord Chief Justice of their Supreme Court, as well as by another eminent judge, and that this country was lamentably deprived of the services of the late Lord Herschell, I doubt whether any other appointment could have been made which would have given so much satisfaction, and I believe that the country is unanimous that it

was Lord Russell's duty to accept the appointment. But the fact remains that we are increasingly liable to these drains on our judicial reserves, and that may be an additional reason for this new judge. What I wish to impress upon the Government is, that between now and next session they should take the opportunity of re-considering the whole of our judicial arrangements, not merely in Chancery, but in the Queen's Bench, with the view of dealing adequately and permanently with the question.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E): If you are short of judges in this country, we have twice too many in our country, and if an appointment is to be made to strengthen the Chancery side of the courts of this country, I see no reason why that judge could not be drawn from the Irish Bench. There is additional and strong reason why the Government should keep in mind the fact that they can draw from the Irish Bench, without injury to its strength, three or four of its members. I noticed with interest that the Solicitor-General, in his speech, pointed out that the difficulty with which you have to deal in this country when you appoint a Chancery judge is that you require an

equity man. In Ireland no such thing exists, and I personally do not know an Irishman who, if he is appointed, is not prepared to act as a Chancery judge without knowing anything of equity whatever.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Gentleman is out of order in discussing the Irish Bench on the motion before the House.

MR. DILLON: The only object I had was from the point of view of expense. If my point of view is accepted by the House, the country would save a large sum of money.

*MR. SPEAKER: That is a separate question. The first question is, whether a judge shall be appointed. Whether, in order to save expense, an Irish judge shall be abolished is a wholly difficult question.

MR. DILLON: I am sorry, Sir. However, I have said all that I wish to say.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 159; Noes, 28. (Division List, No. 319.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Asher, Alexander
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. J. Blair (Clackm)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barry, Rt. Hn. A. H. Smith (Hunts)
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Begg, Ferdinand Faithfull
Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe
Bethell, Commander
Blownaggee, Sir M. M.
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boecawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, A. Montagu
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Edward
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)

Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.)
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Clarke, Sir Edward (Plymouth)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard H.
Cox, Irwin Edward B.
Cranborne, Viscount
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
Curzon, Viscount
Dewar, Arthur
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Donkin, Richard Sim
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, William Theodore
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William H.
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fellows, Hon. Ailwyn E.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fry, Lewis
Gedge, Sydney
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St George's)

Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gull, Sir Cameron
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Henderson, Alexander
Hermion-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
Holland, W. H. (York, W. R.)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, R. P.
Howard, Joseph
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hn. Sir U.
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir J. H.
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn)
Lawrence, W. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lecky, Rt. Hon. Wm. E. H.
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
Lowe, Francis William

Lowles, John
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Maclure, Sir John William
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 M'Crae, George
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Killop, James
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Moldmay, Francis Bingham
 Molloy, Bernard Charles
 Monk, Charles James
 More, Rbt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Muray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)

Percy, Earl
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Purvis, Robert
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Round, James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebottom, William (Derbys.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
 Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stone, Sir Benjamin

Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf. Univ.)
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
 Ure, Alexander
 Valentia, Viscount
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, J. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
 Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wyndham, George
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Blake, Edward
 Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Crilly, Daniel
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Dillon, John

Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
 Hogan, James Francis
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Lambert, George
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Dermott, Patrick
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William

O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 Steadman, William Charles
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
 Woods, Samuel
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Broadhurst and Mr.
 Coghill.

Resolved, That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty, representing that the state of business in the High Court of Justice is such as to require the appointment of an additional judge, and praying that Her Majesty will be graciously pleased to appoint a new judge of the said High Court in the Chancery Division thereof, in pursuance of the eighteenth section of The Appellate Jurisdiction Act, 1876.

To be presented by Privy Councillors and such Members as are of Her Majesty's Household.

TELEGRAPHS (TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION, ETC.) BILL.

Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

SIR J. JOICEY (Durham, Chester-le-Street): The discussion of this Bill has been continued during its various stages under very great difficulties, because the

Bill at every stage was a different Bill to what it had been previously. The Bill we are now discussing is altogether different to that which was brought before us on the Second Reading, and although on the Report stage important clauses were moved, the discussion was carried on under much difficulty, because we had not the facilities of the Committee stage, when we might have spoken more than once upon the subject. Her Majesty's Government have completely changed their front with regard to this measure. When a Government introduces a Bill into this House, it ought to know what policy it intends to pursue in regard to it; but in this particular case, either the Government had no opinion, or they have changed the opinion which they had altogether. As the Bill made progress after the Second Reading, it was sent to a Grand Committee, where its various provisions were discussed and decided upon, and at that time we all thought that the Government were strongly opposed to the National Telephone Company. But after the Grand Committee had done its work, and the Bill came to this House on the Report stage, the Government changed

their views with regard to the National Telephone Company, and came to an arrangement with the company which was never contemplated either at the time of the Second Reading of the Bill or during the Committee stage. I have strong objection to this Bill on various grounds, not the least of which is that the Government propose to treat London altogether differently to any other part of the country. It is proposed to devote a portion of the two millions of money provided by this Bill to the development of the telephone services in the country, but unless there is every intention to give an active competition to the National Telephone Company in London this Bill in my opinion is the merest trifling. Of all parts of the Kingdom London requires the least assistance from the Post Office with regard to this matter. I think the Government ought to have taken over the whole system and nationalised the telephone, but if they do not do that they should at least have had an effective competition. But they have given up the idea of any competition under this Bill, because I see it is intended to prevent the National Telephone Company from establishing a service in any area in which they have not at present a service already working. This means that those areas will be either worked by the Post Office or by a licensee in the shape of a municipality, or they will be left out entirely. The Government not only gives that advantage to the company, but they also propose to extend the licence of the company beyond 1911. I have protested against that action again and again, and I think it is my duty to make a last protest now, although I cannot expect any protest of mine to be very effective with a Government with so large a majority behind them. But I challenge them to leave this an open question, even at the eleventh hour, and let their supporters vote on this Bill exactly as they choose, and I feel sure that if they are left free to use their own minds the Bill will not be passed. I have no animus against the National Telephone Company. I have had some experience in telephone work in this country. I quite admit that under the circumstances the company has done its work well, and that if it had not been hampered as it has been it would have done much better. It has selected certain

districts where it has established a service in order to make as much profit as possible, and I do not blame it for doing that, because the first object of a company of this kind is not to create a public benefit, but to make a profit for its shareholders. But I blame the Government in this matter, because they are the culprits in this and not the company. The Post Office has the power of establishing telephones all over the country, and instead of doing so in order that they might encourage competition, they discourage competition, and have entered into negotiations with the Telephone Company, because, no doubt, they look forward to the time when the Post Office may take over the whole system, and they preferred to deal with one company in place of many. I have heard of no real objection on the part of the Government to the policy of the nationalisation of the telephone. The one solitary objection that has been made so far as I have been able to see is that it would necessitate the employment of a very large number of persons, and the Government do not see their way to increase the number of their employees. I think the Government should have the strength to resist the pressure brought against them by these people. I do not see why the Government should refrain from giving a telephone service because they think a few votes might be lost to them. If the municipalities take on the telephones themselves the voters who may be against it may be infinitely larger than they would be in the case of Government employees, and there is far greater danger in increasing the number of municipal employees than there would be if the Government took over the telephones and employed a larger number of persons themselves. There is one great objection I have to this Bill, and that is, I do not want to see municipalities become suppliers of the telephone service. They have got quite enough to do at present to attend to their proper duties. There is a very great tendency on the part of municipalities to speculate, and we have municipal gas and municipal trams and municipal water; but they have never taken over any of those companies until they have satisfied themselves that the companies are substantially and physically sound. But there are men of a more speculative character, who would be likely to spend public money in these matters, and I do not think that it is the

work of the municipality. We have heard lately of municipalities borrowing money on the cheap. I have heard of municipalities trying to borrow money at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and it was a complete failure, and I am not surprised, but my chief objection to the Bill is that it will defer the nationalisation of the telephone system of this country for many years, if, indeed, it does not put it off altogether. The Committee who considered this question was of opinion that 1911 was quite long enough for any licence to extend to for the supply of telephones, and the Committee which sat in 1892 was of the same opinion, and yet, in the face of these facts, the Government has resolved to extend the licence of the National Telephone Company beyond 1911. We do complain most bitterly that the Government did not allow us to go into this question specially before the Select Committee last year, because I think we could have produced such evidence as would certainly have prevented the Government from taking up the present position. I was under the impression that the Government had made up their minds not to extend the licence of the National Telephone Company beyond 1911, and we consequently believed that in 1911 the telephone service would be transferred from the National Telephone Company to the Post Office. I think the Government behaved most unfairly in coming to an arrangement to extend the licence beyond 1911. I am satisfied in my own mind that there will never be a more favourable opportunity of getting a national system than there is at the present moment. If you give a number of municipalities power to make telephones in their own areas, you will find that where these telephones pay you will create a vested interest which will be far more powerful than the National Telephone Company, and I feel sure that with the influence which will be used by the Members representing the different localities in this House, no Government would venture to terminate these licences in 1825. There was, indeed, a special recommendation made by the Select Committee to provide for justice being done if the licences terminated in 1911. The recommendation was that the Government should be authorised to purchase all the plant of the various licensees at the end of 1911, and if any Members who held

signed the Report was because we thought by this means we should get over the difficulty of being unjust to the National Telephone Company. But there is another reason why I want a national system. I think as time goes on, and other licences are created, you will find that there will be considerable friction between the owners of the local lines and the Post Office, who hold the trunk lines. Already there is great grumbling in my part of the world because whenever persons want to speak over the trunk line they find the trunk line occupied, and communication cannot consequently be obtained with another town. I venture to say that the friction will become so great between the municipalities and the Post Office that the public will compel the Post Office to take over the municipalities, even if they have to pay a large sum to do it. I feel very strongly in my own mind that we have reached a crisis in regard to the question of the telephone service, and if we do not now bring the question before the Government in the strongest possible way the opportunity will be lost, and the country will, at some future time, have to pay a very large sum to place itself in the position in which I desire to see it at the present moment. I cannot help saying that Her Majesty's Government have not acted fairly by the Committee. They have not brought in a Bill in accordance with the conclusions come to by that Committee. We recommended in Committee that there should be competition. I maintain that this Bill will not secure competition. If there had been competition, competition should have been by the Post Office, but the Post Office does not intend to compete. I maintain that the Bill will put the National Telephone Company and many other licensees in such a strong position that when we have to deal with them again in 1925 the Government will have to pay an enormous sum in order to get possession of the system. I feel sure that if the whole of the facts were put before the country, the Government would not have the support of the commercial classes nor of the country districts. The commercial classes are, as a whole, opposed to the policy of the Government, and I am certain that this is also the case in the rural districts. On the grounds that I have given, I beg to move that the Third Reading be postponed for three months.

Sir J. Joyce.

Amendment proposed—

“To leave out the word ‘now,’ and at the end of the Question to add the words ‘upon this day three months.’”—(*Sir James Joyce.*)

Question proposed, “That the word ‘now’ stand part of the Question.”

*MR. HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs): No one, I think, will deny that this is a Bill of far-reaching importance. Indeed, I shall not be using the language of exaggeration if I say that it is the most important Bill which has been introduced this session. It does not concern merely a private interest or one particular part of the country; it affects the whole commerce of Great Britain. Yet this measure, notwithstanding its importance, has been introduced at what one might call the fag-end of the session, and it has been pressed forward from the day of its introduction until now with exceptional urgency. I confess that from this point of view it compares very unfavourably with the London Government Bill. That, no doubt, was a measure of very considerable importance, but as compared with the Bill now in question it might not unfairly be described as purely parochial, yet days, if not weeks, were devoted to the discussion in Committee of the details of the former, whereas the latter is being practically rushed through the House. It may have been, of course, that the Government in the case of the London Government Bill were influenced by the reflection that there were seventy London Members to be considered. But as far as the relative importance of the two measures is concerned, it would have been very much better if the Government had introduced this Bill instead of the London Government Bill, at the date when the latter was brought forward. That, I think, is a ground for desiring that more time should be afforded for the consideration of so weighty a matter. But there is another reason for delay which I think the right hon. Gentleman himself will admit should have some weight attached to it. It is this—the right hon. Gentleman has been subjected to pressure. In the course of previous discussions upon this very Bill, it has been repeatedly asserted that the Bill is not as he would have drawn it if he had been left to himself, but that private influence has been brought to bear

upon him which he has been unable to resist. If that be the case—and I have not heard the right hon. Gentleman deny that it is so—we may feel some commiseration for the right hon. Gentleman, but we can scarcely be expected to pardon him for yielding to private pressure where he ought to have stood firm in the public interest. That, I think, is another and a good ground for delay. But while he cannot recommend this Bill to the House as his ideal, yet the right hon. Gentleman does recommend it to the House and to the country—to use his own words—“because he believes it will be cheap, efficient, and popular.” The right hon. Gentleman, I fear, cherishes a delusion. As far as popularity is concerned, what have been the facts? Why, chamber of commerce after chamber of commerce, including some of the most important bodies in the three kingdoms, have steadily denounced the Bill, and the right hon. Gentleman has been the recipient of many strong communications similar in character from other quarters. On his own side of the House, moreover, men of high standing in commercial centres in England have protested against the Bill. It has also been assailed by men of great weight and standing in commerce on this side. I cannot help thinking that if the right hon. Gentleman buoys himself up with the idea that this Bill will prove to be popular, he has already had ample proof to demonstrate to him how false are the hopes upon which he relies. The question of efficiency, of course, is one which must remain to some extent speculative. I cannot help thinking, however, that the efficiency which is to come from rival companies which are to be set in operation all over the country, and which, it is presupposed, will work in harmony, is an efficiency which is not likely to prove satisfactory either to the community at large or to the municipalities where these rival companies are to be created. The question of cheapness also is entirely speculative. It may be that if you have genuine competition the cost of the telephone service will be reduced to the subscribers, but to the country, if it should ever hereafter be desired to nationalise the whole service, it must inevitably prove to be the dearest system that the right hon. Gentleman could possibly suggest. That brings me to the main reason why I support the rejection of this measure.

The right hon. Gentleman has thrown away, or at all events has failed to seize, a great opportunity by declining to purchase. I find it difficult to understand precisely upon what ground he has absolutely shut his ears to the suggestion. I have heard it said to-night that his reason for doing so is that he is afraid of the increase of the staff which would necessarily follow. I cannot understand that that is a sufficient reason for declining to take this step, if, apart from such an objection, it were in the interest of the people that the system should be nationalised. Again, it has been said that the price asked was too great. But the right hon. Gentleman really had the National Telephone Company at his mercy. He could—I do not say that he ought—but he could have compelled the National Telephone Company to sell at any price he chose; he certainly should have compelled the National Telephone Company to sell at a fair price. I understand the right hon. Gentleman also objects, or did at one time object, to purchase because the Government, if they did purchase, would be purchasing a lot of old plant, and also because in 1911, when the present licence expires, the Government would be in a position to obtain the whole of the plant for practically nothing, and without paying anything for goodwill. But when the right hon. Gentleman refuses to consider the question of purchase, he seems to forget altogether the enormous profits which the National Telephone Company have been earning. I may be wrong, but I understand that the National Telephone Company have been earning something like half a million a year. If they have been earning that on a capital of seven millions, surely there was ample margin for the Government, with its great borrowing powers, having purchased at a fair price, by means of a sinking fund, to have presented the country with the whole of the goodwill and plant by 1911 without, practically, the cost of a penny. Well, that opportunity has been entirely thrown away, and now we understand that the Government are going to start an enormous system in which the National Telephone Company and municipalities are to compete in harmonious rivalry for the public benefit. But what does this great system mean? It means a duplication of plant in every municipality where the system is taken advantage of, and not

only a duplication of plant, but an enormous consequential waste of capital. There are other serious objections. Necessarily in every municipality which takes advantage of the scheme which the right hon. Gentleman has prepared a great disturbance of the ratepayers must take place during construction, and most probably a serious addition to the already oppressive burthen of the rates in municipalities. And not only will there be such a disturbance, but there will probably be a delay of years, in some cases at all events, before a decision is actually arrived at, and certainly before the construction of lines is completed. Assuming for the moment the success of the right hon. Gentleman's scheme, up to a certain point, assuming that innumerable municipalities all over the country rush in to compete with the National Telephone Company, and assuming also, as the right hon. Gentleman has hinted, that at some time or other the Government will step in and purchase the telephones for the country, at what price will the right hon. Gentleman then be able to buy? His difficulties will be incalculably increased. He will then have to deal not with one company only, as at the present time, but with innumerable companies, with every conceivable variety of system, and with a volume of business which will probably have so vastly increased that a price will be demanded which will be practically prohibitive. Suppose, on the other hand, the right hon. Gentleman were to purchase now and to create a sinking fund from the profits, he might grant leases to those municipalities which are said to be anxious to acquire control of the telephone within their jurisdiction. He might even advance money where it was required for improvements, securing the Treasury against loss by an additional rent charge. The advantages would be immense. The municipalities would be placed in immediate possession with a staff ready made to their hands. The ratepayers would be undisturbed either in their minds or in their premises. The country would become the owners of a valuable property, the actual possession of which they would obtain at any date the Treasury chose to fix, and the responsibility and work entailed upon one department of the State by the acquisition would be gradually assumed. I venture to think that if the right hon.

Mr. Hedderwick.

Gentleman had had the courage to buy out the National Telephone Company, he might by means such as have been suggested have secured in 1911 a national telephone system at practically no cost at all. It is because I think the Government are throwing away a great opportunity, and because, if this Bill be now rejected, the Government may have the courage to introduce next session a scheme such as I have foreshadowed, that I support the rejection of this Bill.

*SIR HARRY BULLARD (Norwich): I have consistently, I hope, followed the details of this Bill, and have supported Her Majesty's Government. I believe that by adjourning this question to another session we should be wasting time. Having sat on the Select Committee and waded through all the evidence that we did for many days, and having also followed the progress of the Bill when it was brought down to this House and read a second time, I certainly think we ought to proceed to alter the state of things as it exists in the country at the present time. Loud and deep complaints from my own constituency have reached me as to the existing state of the telephone system, and I therefore deem it my duty to support the proposal to effect an improvement at the earliest possible date. I also wish to allude to the circumstance that we have had the opinion of many Chambers of Commerce on the subject. I notice that in the Select Committee many statements were brought forward on behalf of the telephone company by their most able manager, Mr. Gain; and I also notice that in a long discussion in the council of the city that I have the honour to represent, the same arguments were used; they were cast, so to speak, in the same mould and were of the same metal. The adherents of the present arrangement are a very active and able body of people, but I do not think they appreciate what is necessary for the advancement and utility of the telephone. I believe that the municipalities and companies can work mutually together and be conducive of good, but if we still keep waiting, it will be detrimental to the utility of this very useful invention, the telephone.

WOL. LXXV. [FOURTH SERIES.]

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): I can only look upon this question as a very fitting *finale* to a session which has been marked by measures which have placed private and sectional interests before the public benefit and the general good of the nation as a whole. As far as regards the telephone question, I desire to enter my strongest protest against what came out in the Debate on the Report stage of this Bill. General charges were made throughout the Debate that Members had been influenced and certain localities more or less "got at" or "squared." I think that when it comes to influencing a Member or squaring any special locality, such things are equally disastrous both for the reputation of this House and for the general welfare and prosperity of the country. It is the duty of this nation, in view of the tremendous rivalry in commerce to which we are exposed from Continental rivals—a rivalry which is becoming more and more keen every year, and which is diminishing the lead we formerly possessed—to make every possible effort to maintain, if not increase, our commercial supremacy. In nothing could we find a greater help in that direction than in the development of the telephone. We are far behind other countries in this matter. I need only give one striking instance. Stockholm, with a population of a quarter of a million, has no less than 700 telephone call offices; whereas, in the London area, with 6,000,000 of people, there are only a little over 200 call offices. This Bill is more likely to perpetuate our present inferiority than to remove it. The tendency of the Bill will be to make the telephone specially available for the rich, instead of making it equally accessible for rich and poor alike. The promoters of the measure cannot have had any clear conception of the object to be aimed at. That object should be nationalisation. We ought to aim at having a universal telephone, just as we have a universal telegraph; the Government ought to occupy the whole field. The same characteristic appears in this Bill as in the Adulteration of Foods Bill which was recently passed. In the present Bill the companies are directly encouraged to give a bad service in order to induce competition, because the very fact of the existence of competition means an extension of their licence for something like fourteen years. The same trait was in the Adulteration of Foods Bill, only in

the reverse way. In that measure there was a direct check on competition. In this case the hands of the public are tied, because by trying to free themselves from this Telephone Company, they fasten the burden on their shoulders for fourteen years more. Two points came out in the course of the Committee Debate. One was the general admission that the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary to the Treasury was not himself responsible for the Bill; that he was a good man struggling against adversity; that he had the public welfare at heart, but was not able to free himself from the incubus of his colleagues. I say that if the right hon. Gentleman had the public welfare really at heart, he would find more real supporters on this side of the House. The other point was the constantly reiterated and never refuted charge that there had been persistent Lobbying, and that Members had been influenced and got at. For the credit of this House, notice and refutation of such a charge ought to be made. Above all, what this House sets an inestimable value on is the possession of a conscience; and by this Bill, either through Party feeling or through personal interest, the edge of that conscience has been allowed to be somewhat blunted, and I hope this will be the last measure of such a sort that we shall see for a long time. The end of the session is approaching, and when the nation as a whole becomes acquainted with the personal interests and the local interests which, to my mind, have been the moving action in regard to this Bill, they will emphatically recognise that their interests have not been looked after as they ought to have been. The only people to be congratulated on the passing of the Bill are the National Telephone Company themselves; they have been wise in their generation; they have buttressed themselves up with influential men in both political Parties, and they alone are to be congratulated, while the nation as a whole deserves to be commiserated. For these reasons I strongly oppose the Third Reading of the Bill.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON (Glasgow, Bridgeton): Not one of the hon. Gentleman who have objected to the Bill have done so on the same grounds. The hon. Member opposite objected, because it introduced a double telephonic system, and

Mr. Pirie.

that that would give rise to all sorts of inconveniences and discrepancies. The hon. Member for Wick Burghs wished the Government to assume control of the telephones, and thought that that could be done without any expense, by borrowing the money to buy up the system, and recouping ourselves by a sinking fund. Why, he said, license the municipalities? for if the Government are going to take over the telephones in 1911, there will be no necessity for licensing the municipalities, or anyone else. My hon. friend the Member for North Aberdeen objected to the Bill on account of the element of Tammany which had been introduced into it. I do not see where the Tammany element comes in. He divided hon. Members into three classes—first those who voted for the Bill on account of private interest. These I suppose are Members interested in the National Telephone Company. The second class are Members who support the Bill in the selfish interests of the localities they represent, which I presume is the class to which I belong. I must say on that point that I have supported this Bill in the interest of all the localities of Scotland, and especially in the interest of Aberdeen, which sent up a deputation to give evidence before the Select Committee of 1894. Aberdeen was the strongest of all the Scottish municipalities in demanding licences from the local authorities, and its representatives even went the length of saying that they would be willing, if they got the power, not only to accept a licence, but to buy up the existing telephone system. A further class were those, to which I suppose my hon. friend himself belongs, who have regard only to the wide interests of the nation as a whole. But my hon. friend must give others credit for having a regard to the interests of the nation as a whole as well as himself. I think my hon. friend would have much better preserved the interests of the nation as a whole by supporting, rather than opposing, this Bill? What were the objections urged against the Bill in the course of the Debate? The hon. Member for Chester says the Government would be forced into buying up the telephone systems, and paying an exorbitant price for them. Now, the whole danger and risk of an extravagant bargain with the National Telephone Company arose from the fact that there was no competition with them, and that

their business was a gigantic monopoly. If that business had gone on unchecked until 1911, the Government would have been confronted with a state of matters by which they would have been compelled to buy up the company's business at any price the company chose to fix, or to have the whole telephone business of the nation thrown into absolute disorder. What we have got to look at is, how the matter will work out. My right hon. friend has been twitted with having said that he had not altogether a free hand in this matter. Of course he had not a free hand. The National Telephone Company had a licence, and he was obliged to have regard to that licence. Under that licence, too, the Post Office had no control, and he was obliged also to have regard to that fact. But the right hon. Gentleman has been able to secure a great number of advantages in the course of the negotiations for this Bill. At a very early stage it was made manifest to the supporters of the National Company, and the supporters of the nationalisation of the telephones, that the House was not inclined to support them, and that was what made the National Company willing to enter into these negotiations. I cannot be accused of being a friend to the National Company. I have been engaged in a most active contest with them ever since 1894. In the Committee of 1894 I venture to say that my position of antagonism to the company was as marked as that of any member of the Committee, and the manner in which I cross-examined the witnesses in every possible way was such that there was no great love lost between us. It is because I am desirous of bringing about an improved state of the telephonic communications of this country that I support this Bill in its present shape. It is, in its present shape, a vast improvement on the measure as it was when first introduced. Certainly, the right hon. Gentleman has got concessions quite as big as those he has granted. In the first place, the Post Office will establish a competing telephone system in London, and the company will at once lose their monopoly in the most valuable area under their control, and where there are five-sixths of the entire number of their subscribers. Moreover, it will be impossible for the company in 1911 to receive any extension of their licence, and the Post Office will be in control. When that licence falls in, as to a moral certainty

it will, in 1911, no matter what may be the ideas of the Government of that day in regard to nationalisation, London will be nationalised. Further, the moment this Bill passes, the National Company lose the privileges which their licence gives them over a large area of the country. Wherever they have not already established an effective exchange, their rights cease and determine at once, and the first step which the Post Office will take will be to occupy the ground too long neglected, and establish a system of rural telephones throughout the country. Then, in a large number of boroughs the company's licence will certainly not be extended, for there will be no competition, as the municipalities will not care to enter into the business. In other places where there is competition, like Aberdeen, all that Aberdeen has to do when it applies for its licence, is to ask for the licence only to 1911, and there will then be no extension of the National Company's licence beyond that date. In 1911 the Government will be firmly seated in the business, as far as London is concerned, and it will have established a considerable system of rural telephones. In certain places the licences will fall in, but in a manageable manner, and the Post Office will not have to deal with the whole country at once; and as for the other towns, it will be in a still better position to deal with them when the extended licences fall in. Now, on the other hand, it is quite possible that in 1911 the Government may not care to assume national control altogether, and in that case assuredly, if this Bill does not pass, the National Company will require to get an extension of their licence. The right hon. Gentleman in the course of these negotiations has made changes in the Bill, which will enable the competition to be real and widespread, and which will induce municipalities and new companies to apply for licences, and bring about that improvement in the telephonic system in the country which, I am sure, will result from fair competition alone. My hon. friend referred to the case of Stockholm as being the best in the world. Why, they have there three competing companies, and hence the remarkable success of the scheme so repeatedly referred to in the course of these Debates. I wish, as one who has worked for many years for the improve-

ment of our system of telephony, which at present I consider to be a disgrace to a country in the position of Great Britain, and as one who represents the city which was in the very fore-front of the agitation for a municipal licence, to say that I most heartily support this Bill in the assurance that it will be a greater success in its present shape than when it was introduced. If my hon. friends are so ill-advised as to go to a Division, I shall go into the lobby with the Government.

MR. W. F. LAWRENCE (Liverpool, Abercromby): I will not detain the House any length of time at this period of the session and this time of the evening. But inasmuch as the people of Liverpool feel so strongly that this Bill has been a mistake, it is only right that I should enter my humble protest against its passing. The Liverpool Corporation, the Chamber of Commerce, the Dock Board, and the Navigation Board all oppose this measure; and it is very evident from the terms of the Bill that it is only one step in the direction of the nationalisation of the telephones in this country. In the first place the City of London is going to enjoy a system of nationalisation without delay, and at the expense of the general taxpayers, and what London will receive to-day the provinces will receive to-morrow. The country districts will not rest content till the facilities which are given to London are extended to them. In the interests of the State and the taxpayers it would be well if the Treasury were to buy up the existing telephone system while it is still in its infancy, instead of postponing the time for twenty years, when they will have to pay 100 per cent. more than the present value. As, however, the Bill gives to London what it denies to Liverpool I do not see my way to support it.

*MR. CAWLEY (Lancashire, Prestwich): As a Liberal Member I support the Bill, because I believe it carries out the recommendation of the Select Committee that general, immediate and effective competition is desirable and should be set up, and I believe this Bill is the only way in which it can be set up. Various hon. Gentlemen oppose this Bill for different reasons. The hon. Member for the University of London does not wish to see municipalities trading, and the logical inference to be drawn from his remarks is that he wishes the company to go on as before. The hon. Member for Chester-le-Street wishes the Government to buy out the company; but if the Government did that, having regard to the million and a half of watered stock of the company, the country would not get any benefit by it. This Bill is an honest attempt to give the country a cheap and effective system. And the fact that the National Company has granted inter-communication will foster competition, and I believe great benefit will be derived from it. In my constituency, which is partly urban and partly suburban, this will be of inestimable advantage to the small shopkeepers and others, who by it will obtain a cheap service. There is one other point to which I would desire to draw attention, and that is the industry of making telephone plant in this country. If a man makes telephone plant now he only has one customer—the National Telephone Company—and no one would set up large works for one customer without a guarantee, the result of which is that all the telephone plant is now brought from abroad. I think we ought to keep the industry in this country.

The House divided:—Ayes, 132;
Noes, 29. (Division List, No. 320.)

AYES.

Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederick Gorell
Barry, Rt. Hon. A. Smith. (Hunts)
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bemrose, Sir Henry Howe

Sir Charles Cameron.

Bethell, Commander
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, A. Montagu
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Sir C. (Glasgow)

Carson, Rt. Hon. Edward
Cawley, Frederick
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worcester)
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Clough, Walter Owen
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry

Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Donkin, Richard Sim
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fletcher, Sir Henry
 Flower, Ernest
 Fry, Lewis
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. George's
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
 Henderson, Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Robert Trotter
 Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Howard, Joseph
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace

Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Corn
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lecky, Rt. Hon. William E. H.
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Lowther, Rt. Hon. J. W. (Cumb.
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 Maclure, Sir John William
 M'Killop, James
 Maddison, Fred.
 Manners, Lord Edward Wm. J.
 Middlemore, John Throgmorton
 Monk, Charles James
 More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Percy, Earl
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Purvis, Robert

Richards, Henry Charles
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Round, James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Runciman, Walter
 Russell, Gen. F. S. (Cheltenham)
 Russell, T. W. (Tyronne)
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebottom, William (Derbyshire)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Valentia, Viscount
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.
 Williams, Joseph Powell- (Birm
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Broadhurst, Henry
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Dewar, Arthur
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.
 Hedderwick, Thomas Charles H

Horniman, Frederick John
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 M'Crae, George
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Moss, Samuel
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)

Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarshire)
 Smith, Samuel (Flint)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Wallace, Robert
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Wilson, H. J. (Yorks, W. R.)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir James Joicey and Mr.
 Pirie.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

METROPOLITAN POLICE BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

PATRIOTIC FUND BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland,
 Penrith) in the Chair.]

MR. LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): I have no objection to this Bill, which appears to be an attempt to remedy an injustice. But when a Bill of this kind is brought before the House I think it is only right that the House should know the amount of the fund to which the Bill refers. The Committee ought to have more information upon Clause 1. The sections which have to be referred to in other statutes should be set out, and I protest against this fresh instance of the growing and mischievous practice of legislation by reference.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF
 STATE FOR WAR (Mr. WYNDHAM,

Dover): I admit that there is a good deal to be said against legislation by reference. Still it is permissible in a Bill of this kind. The Royal Patriotic Fund was established at the time of the Crimean War to relieve the widows and children of soldiers who were either killed or died from their wounds in that war. The fund has been administered under a Commission which has been confirmed by Acts of Parliament. The Bill only embodies the moderate and unanimous recommendations of a Committee which had recently sat. In 1881 an Act of Parliament was passed which brought under the same administration five other small funds, each of which has also issued from a public subscription on the morrow of some great disaster such as the wreck of the "Captain." But the five funds, before they were brought under the administration of the Commissioners of the Patriotic Fund, were administered with greater latitude than the Patriotic Fund; relief from them could be given, not only to the widows and children, but to any dependent upon the men lost. The phrase "widows and children" was imported into the fourth section of the Act of 1881, so that the Act placed a greater restriction upon the five small funds than there was upon them formerly. The first purpose of the present measure is to restore to the five subsidiary funds the latitude they originally enjoyed, and at the same time to extend it to the Patriotic Fund itself.

MR. LEWIS: As far as I am concerned, this Bill is entirely unopposed so far as regards the principle, which, as I said before, is a most admirable one. I only desired to draw attention to what appear to be certain drafting irregularities, and in doing that I shall rest contented.

Bill reported without Amendment; read the third time, and passed.

RESERVE FORCES BILL.

Considered in Committee, and reported, without Amendment; read the third time, and passed.

Mr. Wyndham.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (DEFECTIVE AND EPILEPTIC CHILDREN) BILL [Lords].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clauses 1, 2, 3, and 4 amended and agreed to.

Clause 5 :—

*MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland): I beg to move to leave out from the word "Act" in page 3, line 11, to end of clause. The object of my Amendment is to bring this Bill into conformity with the Blind and Deaf Children Act of 1893, on which this Bill is framed. This Act contains the following provision :

"A school shall not be certified by the Education Department as suitable for providing elementary education for blind and deaf children . . . unless it is either managed by a school authority, or the annual expenses of its maintenance are to the extent of not less than one-third defrayed out of sources other than local rates, or moneys provided by Parliament, and are audited and published in accordance with the regulations of the Education Department."

In other words, this Act recognises that public control should go with public money, and I hope that the House will be inclined to see that the principle is not contravened in the case of this Bill. I do not think there is any reason why any different course should be taken in this Bill from that taken in the case of the Blind and Deaf Children Act. The London School Board, which has paid the very greatest attention to this subject—in fact, I think it may be regarded as the promoter of this special legislation—protested the other day against this part of the clause. I may say that it would not in the least affect the Voluntary schools in the country, and I think it is only in accordance with established practice that there should be control of public money by some public body.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 11, to leave out from 'Act' to end of clause."—(*Mr. Trevelyan.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (Sir JOHN GORST, Cambridge University) said that he was very sorry that he could not accept the Amendment, and pointed out that the money in question was subject to the public control of the Education Department.

MR. LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): There is one question which I would like to bring before the notice of the Vice-President. The Bill provides that no requirement should be made as to the proportion of the expenses to be defrayed out of private sources. Under the provisions of the Act which has been referred to that requirement was at least one-third. Is it understood now that a school may be under denominational management, even though the local subscriptions may not amount to more than 5 per cent. or 10 per cent., or perhaps nothing at all? If that is the case, I think there is great force in the contention of my hon. friend, because I think if we make an additional grant of public money we certainly ought to have control of the schools. Many of these schools are managed locally by one person only, and I think it would not be right for us to make a large grant of public money without proper control. With the main object of this Bill I am in entire and most cordial agreement, but I think the local schools ought either to be placed under public management, or, if they are to be under private management, there ought to be a certain proportion of private expenditure upon them. That is a principle to which I think we on this side of the House shall all be prepared to assent. I do not think we ought to set up in this Bill an additional number of schools, the management of which may be placed in the hands of a single individual. I should, however, be glad to hear from the Vice-President that I am wrong in that respect. If I am

not I hope my hon. friend will go to a Division.

*MR. TREVELYAN: I still think that my Amendment is one which ought to be introduced into the Bill. However, in view of the fact that the Government intend to oppose it, and that this Bill is of an exceedingly valuable nature, I shall not press it.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause agreed to.

Remaining clauses agreed to.

New clauses added.

Bill reported, with Amendments; as amended, to be considered To-morrow.

BODIES CORPORATE (JOINT TENANCY) BILL [Lords].

Considered in Committee, and reported, without Amendment; read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

EXPIRING LAWS CONTINUANCE BILL.

Read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

SEATS FOR SHOP ASSISTANTS BILL (changed from "SEATS FOR SHOP ASSISTANTS (ENGLAND AND IRELAND) BILL").

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

SUMMARY JURISDICTION ACT (1879) AMENDMENT BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

TANCRED'S CHARITIES SCHEME CONFIRMATION BILL.

Read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

**BATHS AND WASHHOUSES ACTS
AMENDMENT BILL.**

As amended, considered ; Amendments made.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

LINCOLNSHIRE CORONERS BILL
[Lords].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 1 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 9, to leave out from the word 'Acts,' to the end of the clause."—(Mr. Caldwell.)

**THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr.
JESSE COLLINGS, Birmingham Bordesley) :**
The Amendment of my hon. friend cannot be accepted, because it interferes with the purpose of the Bill.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid.) :
I do not think the right hon. Gentleman knows anything about the Bill ; he is reading from some notes. It would be much better to report Progress and proceed with something else, because I assure the right hon. Gentleman that these Amendments of mine are absolutely right. The Member in charge of the Bill in the House of Lords perfectly agreed with them.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again To-morrow.

MARRIAGES VALIDITY (No. 2) BILL
[Lords].

Read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

MANCHESTER CANONRIES BILL
[Lords].

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made and Question proposed,
"That the Bill be now read a second time."

MR. LEWIS (Flint Boroughs) : I do not rise for the purpose of opposing this Bill, the object of which everybody will approve. I would remind the House that Nonconformist Bills do not receive the same indulgent treatment as do measures of this kind. I hope this Bill will prove to be the thin edge of the wedge, and that the principle of equalisation will be applied in a great many other directions.

MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield) : Will this measure operate as regards existing canons, because there is a provision that nothing in the section shall operate to reduce the income of any person who is a canon at the passing of the Act except with his consent ?

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir R. B. FINLAY, Inverness Burghs) was understood to say that the words were introduced to prevent any injustice being done to existing canons.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

COMMONS AND OPEN SPACES BILL
[Lords].

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

***THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. LONG, Liverpool, West Derby) :** In moving the Second Reading of this Bill it is necessary that I

should tell the House that the object of the measure is solely to simplify and to facilitate the management of existing commons. The rights of the lord of the manor are safeguarded, and there is no reason to fear any addition to the rates through it. As far as the Government are concerned they have no objection to the passing of the Bill.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I do not propose to offer any objection to the passing of this Bill, especially as it has now been moved from the Government side of the House. In its original form it was a Bill we very strongly approved, but during its passage through the House of Lords it was altered to such an extent that we do not care much whether it passes or not. I believe it does on the whole make some improvement in the present condition of things, and therefore I shall not oppose it.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

PARLIAMENTARY DEPOSITS BILL.

Order for Second Reading read and discharged; Bill withdrawn.

SUPPLY [28th JULY].

Resolutions reported.

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES, 1899-1900.

CLASS II.

1. "That a sum, not exceeding £31,405, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Her

Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, including a Grant in Aid of certain Expenses connected with Emigration."

CLASS I.

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £209,705, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for Rates and Contributions in lieu of Rates, &c., in respect of Government Property, and for Rates on Houses occupied by Representatives of Foreign Powers, and for the Salaries and Expenses of the Rating of Government Property Department, and for a Contribution towards the Expense of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade."

CLASS II.

3. "That a sum, not exceeding £6,900, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council."

4. "That a sum, not exceeding £27,594, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Charity Commission for England and Wales, including the Endowed Schools Department."

5. "That a sum, not exceeding £28,405, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of, the Civil Service Commission."

6. "That a sum, not exceeding £39,407, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of

payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of the Comptroller and Auditor-General."

7. "That a sum, not exceeding £4,912, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Registry of Friendly Societies."

8. "That a sum, not exceeding £14,400, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Her Majesty's Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues, and of the Office of Land Revenue Records and Inrolments."

Resolutions read a second time.

First Resolution postponed.

Second to Seventh Resolutions agreed to.

ghth Resolution—

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Debate arising.

Debate adjourned till To-morrow.

Postponed Resolution to be considered To-morrow.

SUPPLY.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES, 1899-1900.

CLASS I.

1. £65,000, Supplementary, Public Buildings, Great Britain.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): Does this Vote include the item for the London University?

*THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): Yes.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: I should like to hear some explanation in reference to the circumstances in which the London University are to occupy the Imperial Institute.

*MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: The money now asked for is to purchase a portion of the Imperial Institute for the housing of the London University. The arrangement is as follows: The lease under which the buildings are held from the Commissioners of Exhibition of 1851 will be transferred to the Office of Works, who will become responsible for the maintenance, rates, custody, and protection of buildings. A portion of the buildings—those at the western end—will be assigned for the use of the Institute, free of rent, but with the responsibility for internal maintenance and repair. The eastern and central portion, including the principal entrance, vestibule, and staircase and great hall, together with upper floors and temporary wooden structure now in north-eastern court, will form the new home of London University. The space will give far larger accommodation to the London University than that now enjoyed at Burlington Gardens. In consideration of transfer of lease, the Government will provide funds sufficient to pay off existing mortgage of £40,000, and discharge floating debt of £15,000. The structural alterations will cost £7,000, making in all £62,000. The remaining £3,000 is for half-year's maintenance and repair, together with fuel, lighting, and the necessary furniture.

There has been a strong feeling for some time that better use might be made of the buildings of the Imperial Institute, and there is also a very strong feeling that it is a very suitable place for the London University. I trust the short explanation that I have given has fully explained to hon. Members the proposals of the Government in regard to finding a home for the new London University.

Vote agreed to.

CLASS III.

2. £500, Supplementary, Miscellaneous Legal Expenses.

CLASS V.

3. £367,801 (including a Supplementary sum of £75,000), to complete the sum for Colonial Services.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfarshire): I should like to ask the Colonial Secretary two questions in regard to the Niger territory. I use the expression in the largest inclusive sense, for we have repeatedly during this session endeavoured to obtain an explicit declaration from the Colonial Secretary upon two points—one is the question of the legal status of slavery, and the other the importation of intoxicating liquors. We have never been able to get a specific declaration from the right hon. Gentleman on these two points. On both these subjects I gather from what has been said on former occasions that there has been a distinct retrogression on the part of Her Majesty's Government, and this has not been denied by the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for the Colonies, who has assured the House that the Colonial Office are actuated by the best motives. In regard to slavery in the Niger Company's territory, the legal status of slavery was abolished in 1897, but henceforward in that and other portions of the territory there will be no

standing abolition of the legal status of slavery. Those people who have lived in that country all hold that great importance should be attached to the abolition of the legal status of slavery. I do not question the motives for this change of policy—

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): What I said was that the legal status of slavery was abolished by proclamation of the company, and we shall continue to observe that proclamation. There has been no change whatever.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR: I myself and many others interested in this subject have heard and read the replies of the right hon. Gentleman, and we understand that with the company will disappear the decrees of the company, and, unless the Government specifically declare the legal status of slavery to be abolished in these regions, we understand that if this is not done there will be no abolition of slavery. I think we ought to have from the right hon. Gentleman some clear statement as to what the intention of the Government is with regard to this question. I know that the right hon. Gentleman wishes to put down slavery, and he has said that he will do his best to abolish the legal status of slavery in the Niger Company's territory.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I never said anything of the kind. The hon. Member has attributed to me a series of statements not one of which I made. I challenge him to prove any single one of these accusations. What I have said is as clear as language can make it. I have said that the abolition of the status of slavery, as begun by the Niger Company, would be continued by the Government.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR: The right hon. Gentleman should not regard what I said as an accusation, because I did not accuse him of anything except that he will not give us a clear statement as to the aboli-

tion of the legal status of slavery. I give the right hon. Gentleman credit, as I have said before, for trying in his administration to do the best he can to minimise and reduce the evils of slavery. It may be due to our want of comprehension, but the right hon. Gentleman has never said that throughout the whole of these territories the legal status of slavery will stand abolished.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Yes, Sir, I have. I have said it again and again in the clearest possible language. With regard to all the territories of the Niger Company, the abolition of the legal status of slavery, declared by the company's proclamation, will continue to exist.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR: I can assure the right hon. Gentleman that I am not alone in failing to understand what the right hon. Gentleman said. I will pass on to the question of the importation of spirits. In regard to this question, we are told by the right hon. Gentleman that he will do his best to check the importation of spirits, but he said that, in consequence of the amalgamation of these territories, there would be great difficulty in preventing the transportation of spirits.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I beg the hon. Member's pardon; I never said anything of the kind. I wish he would quote the words which he thinks justify him in making these statements. As regards the northern territories of Nigeria, I do not think there will be any difficulty whatever in continuing the prohibition established by the Niger Company, and, undoubtedly, every effort I can bring to bear will be brought to bear to secure the absolute prohibition of the importation of spirits within that area.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR: In a letter recently written by Bishop Tugwell he
Captain Sinclair.

states that he was disappointed to find that Mr. Chamberlain does not propose to abolish the legal status of slavery, but that the Government were going to re-instate it, and he said he would like to know definitely whether that is the case or not. I hope the right hon. Gentleman will not resent my having brought forward this question, for it is an important subject, and I have failed to understand clearly what difference there will be in the administration of those territories compared with what the administration was before the Government took them over.

MR. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.): I asked the Secretary for the Colonies the other day how this proposal would affect the rest of what I might call United Nigeria, and his answer was that slavery had never been recognised there, and would not be recognised in the future. That was not quite an answer to my question, and I wish to put one or two further questions to him. Our difficulty is this. The right hon. Gentleman knows that part of the Niger Company's territories now form part of Southern Nigeria. I should like to know what will happen in that part of the Niger Coast Protectorate which was formerly part of the company's territories. What we want is an assurance that for the future in the rest of Nigeria—in Southern Nigeria and in Lagos—the legal status of slavery will be abolished, so that the administration of the Colonial Office will not be behind that of the Niger Company. The discussion which took place in 1895 has often been alluded to, and the right hon. Gentleman himself took part in it, and he laid special stress upon the fact that the abolition of the legal status of slavery in the mainland strip opposite Zanzibar was a most important question. The right hon. Gentleman also told us what a disgraceful thing it was that the British flag should fly over any piece of territory where slavery was recognised.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN : I really have found the greatest difficulty in understanding the object of these repeated inquiries, which I have answered again and again in the clearest possible manner. It is difficult for me to suppose that hon. Members opposite are unable to comprehend these answers, and I find the greatest difficulty in understanding why it is that they bring these questions up again and again. The hon. Member who has just sat down suggests an answer. He said that in 1895 I expressed myself strongly against the continuance of the legal status of slavery in Pemba and Zanzibar ; at that time I suppose he was supporting the then Government in resisting any change of that sort. As I happened to differ from him then he wants to turn the tables upon me now. Whatever I said then I adhere to now, and I am just as ready to see that the legal status of slavery is not continued in the territories over which the Colonial Office will shortly have control as I was then anxious to urge the Government to abolish the legal status in Pemba and Zanzibar. The hon. Member for Forfarshire hopes that I will not resent his interference in this matter, and I may say that I do not do so in the slightest degree. I do, however, resent the statement that he made that I have been evading this question. If the hon. Member for Forfarshire would only have taken the trouble to read my answers to the Committee he would have found how entirely erroneous his view is. I was asked, in the first place, whether it was true that the Niger Company had by proclamation abolished the legal status of slavery. I answered "Yes." I also said, what is the fact, that by this proclamation they abolished the legal status of slavery in countries, a large portion of which had not been trodden by white men, where the Niger Company itself had no posts or authority, and where, therefore, the proclamation was in the nature of a pious opinion. I entirely approved of it, but at the same time it was hardly to be considered as an operative document in regard to those districts. I added, also in answer to a question, that the Government had no intention whatever of altering the status which had been created by the Niger Company. So far as the Niger Company's proclamation was operative, I think it will be operative with us ; and in no court established

by us, and in no part of the territory over which we have any authority, will the legal status of slavery be recognised. Now, is that made clear to hon. Members ? I really am anxious that they should understand the position, and I assure them there is nothing whatever held back. The statement I made to them is an absolute statement ; there is no change whatever in the condition of things which was established by the Niger Company. Then the hon. Member went off again on the question of the importation of spirits. He challenges me—who have done at all events a great deal more than anybody has ever done in my place to increase the duties upon spirits and lessen the consumption of spirits in these West African colonies—and he seems to suspect me of a desire to re-introduce or introduce the traffic in spirits in districts in which it has never hitherto existed. He is utterly mistaken if that is really his opinion. I intend to maintain in all their strictness, and even to increase the stringency of, the regulations which have been made by the Niger Company. The Niger Company prohibited the sale of liquor beyond a certain zone. Prohibiting is another thing to carrying out the prohibition. Of course, I shall continue the prohibition, but I am more anxious to see that the prohibition is effective. I have explained to the Committee on a previous occasion that it is my intention, following out the suggestion by Colonel Lugard, to see whether I cannot establish a neutral zone, and by that means prevent the transportation of spirits and the smuggling of spirits into the northern part of the territory. As I said before, I have every reason to believe that these regulations will be effective. I beg hon. Members to take this for granted—that however stringent the Niger Company may have been both with regard to the status of slavery and with regard to the importations of spirits, they will find me at least as stringent, and I think more stringent.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton) : The right hon. Gentleman says he is doing his best to prevent the sale of spirits, but in the Debate on the Niger Bill, he said that, apart from the question of smuggling, it was necessary to allow spirits to be imported because it was

required for trading purposes. That seems to me to introduce a new element into the matter. We were under the impression that only a small quantity of spirits would be allowed into the country in order to prevent it being brought over the frontier, but the right hon. Gentleman now says that spirits are necessary for the purposes of trade. There is another question I should like to ask. We are asked for a Supplementary Vote for £75,000 for what is now, I suppose, a protectorate or a colony. We know that the expense of administration has exceeded the customs duties by more than £22,000, and I think we ought to have an explanation from the right hon. Gentleman on the matter.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I do not think the hon. Gentleman is quite correct. What I said was, that if foreign countries were able to import spirits into our territory we should not only lose the trade in spirits, but the trade in other goods. That is not a new argument, because it has been the argument of traders from the first moment this question was raised. Since I have been in office the duties on spirits in every one of these West African colonies have been considerably raised, and we have not yet arrived at the end of what we intend to do in that direction. I think it is rather hard, because I have gone further than anyone else, that I should be pressed to go further than I think it prudent to go at the present moment. We have already gone further than our foreign competitors have gone. Of course, it would be possible to prohibit the importation of spirits into those districts, but if we were to do that, let us, at all events, look at the responsibility we should undertake. Immediately trade would be absolutely disorganised, the revenue would be also entirely disorganised, and the whole burden of these colonies would be thrown upon this country. I think that by proceeding gradually, but still with reasonable rapidity, we may immensely reduce the sale of spirits in the country without injuring our trade. The particular Vote before the Committee is required for new buildings and general arrangements for starting the new administration. It is in view of that we have to ask for £75,000, but it will not be a periodical demand, and I have every

Mr. Labouchere.

reason to hope that the amount will be sufficient.

MAJOR JAMESON (Clare, W.): It seems to me extraordinary how the status of slavery and the sale of spirits have been mixed up in this Debate. I cannot understand why the principle of free trade should be taken away from the Niger territory. The Secretary of State for the Colonies leads us to infer that there is to be an extra tax on spirits, and if that is so, surely this £75,000 will not be required.

Vote agreed to.

CLASS VII.

4. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £23,175 (including a Supplementary sum of £9,175), be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and other expenses of Temporary Commissions, Committees, and Special Inquiries, including a Grant in Aid of the Congested Districts Board (Ireland)."

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: Every year we have to take note of the fact that, in spite of the recent words of the Prime Minister with reference to Commissions, there is a continual increase in their number. The Liquor Commission is an example to the whole country of the futility of appointing Commissions of this kind on any subject. The only really useful question I would wish to put is, What is likely to be the fate of the Commission which is inquiring into local rating in this country, which is presided over by Lord Balfour of Burleigh? I do not know whether we can get the information on this Vote. I have a great objection to these ponderous Commissions, the Reports of which are always inconclusive.

MR. LEWIS: I think we ought to have some information regarding the progress made by the Local Taxation Commission. The question submitted to it is one of enormous importance, in which the House and the country are deeply interested. During the Debates

on the Tithes Bill, constant reference was made to the work of this Commission. It is extraordinary how easily the Government, when they want to take a particular course, can get an interim Report in favour of that course. I think the Government ought to make some statement regarding the progress of the Commission.

THE CHAIRMAN: It would be quite out of order to discuss now the progress made by a Royal Commission.

MR. LEWIS: May I ask when the Commission is likely to report? We are asked to vote the sum of £1,465 for salaries. Last year we voted £1,705 for that purpose, and I want to know whether we are getting value for our money, and how long these salaries are to continue. We consider it is high time that there should be a conclusion to the work of this particular Commission, because the interests involved are very large, and the country is eagerly awaiting some definite scheme for the solution of the taxation problem which presses so heavily on certain portions of the community. Unless the Government can give us some indication of when we may expect the Report of the

Commission, I shall have to move the reduction of the Vote by £100.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I believe that the Commission is making rapid progress. The hon. Gentleman himself has referred to the magnitude of its work, and I think the Committee ought not to be unduly impatient as to the time occupied in its discharge.

MR. LEWIS: The Commission has dealt with its work in a piecemeal fashion, which is not satisfactory to hon. Members on this side of the House, and I therefore move the reduction of the Vote by the sum of £100.

Motion made, and Question put—

"That a sum, not exceeding £23,075, be granted for the said Service."—(Mr. Lewis.)

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 49; Noes, 114. (Division List, No. 321.)

AYES.

Asher, Alexander
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Dalziel, James Henry
Dewar, Arthur
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doogan, P. C.
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbert J.
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-

Hazell, Walter
Holland, W. H. (York, W. R.)
Horniman, Frederick John
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'l'd)
Macaleese, Daniel
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
Maddison, Ered.
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Moss, Samuel
Oldroyd, Mark
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Rickett, J. Compton

Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.).
Robson, William Snowdon
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Steadman, William Charles
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, J. Carvell (Notts.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Herbert Lewis and Mr. Hedderwick.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold, Alfred
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell

Barry, Rt. Hon. A. H. S. (Hants)
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Benmore, Sir Henry Howe
Bethell, Commander
Bigwood, James

Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.)
Chaplin, Right Hon. Henry

Charrington, Spencer
 Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Curzon, Viscount
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edwd.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fletcher, Sir Henry
 Flower, Ernest
 Gedge, Sydney
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St George's)
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Greene, Hon. D. (Shrewsbury)
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Rbt. Wm.
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Corn)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)

Lecky, Rt. Hon. Wm. E. H.
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Lowles, John
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 Maclure, Sir John William
 M'Killop, James
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Newdigate, Francis Alex.
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Percy, Earl
 Pollock, Harry Frederick
 Purvis, Robert
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)

Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Round, James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W. (Tyronne)
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbysh.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Chas. Hedley
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Uni.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, W. Edw. Murray
 Valentia, Viscount
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, J. Powell- (Birm.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I now beg to move to report Progress.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs): I should like to ask what is the object of this motion at the present time. Several of my hon friends are interested in some of the Votes yet to be taken, and it would be more convenient to go on with them.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Do I understand from the hon. Member that some of his friends desire to discuss the remaining Votes to-night? I should like the Votes to be taken, but I cannot afford the time to-night, as there are Bills yet to be discussed.

MR. DALZIEL: The right hon. Gentleman will see that it is very inconvenient when certain proposals are on the Paper that business should be upset at a moment's notice.

MR. CALDWELL: May I point out to my hon. friend that this is not a Supply night. The object of taking Supply was merely to pass certain Supplementary Votes which had to be passed

to-night, otherwise the sitting would be devoted to Bills.

Committee report Progress.

Resolutions to be reported To-morrow.

Committee to sit again To-morrow.

NAVAL WORKS BILL.

Read a third time, and passed.

POOR LAW ACTS AMENDMENT BILL
 [Lords].

Read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

LAND TAX COMMISSIONERS' NAMES BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

MR. LEWIS: This measure ought not to be passed without any discussion whatever, because it is only introduced once in the course of every Parliament, and I think we have a right to discuss it, especially as the system to which the Bill relates is capable of very considerable

modification, and certainly ought to be modified to suit the public convenience. The object of the Bill is to enable hon. Members of this House to nominate a certain number of persons to serve in Petty Sessional Divisions as Land Tax Commissioners. Unfortunately the method by which these Commissioners are called together is one which I think could, with very great advantage, be amended. The Land Tax Commissioners never hear of the meetings that are to be held from time to time. They are never summoned and they only have an opportunity of knowing when the meetings are to be held if they are regular readers of the *London Gazette*, and that is not of such an interesting or fascinating character that the general reader pays much attention to its contents. These names are published in the *London Gazette*, and that is the only way in which the Land Tax Commissioners know that their services are required for a particular meeting. That is a state of things to which the House ought to give early attention. The right hon. Gentleman knows very well that practically the election of the Income Tax Commissioners is left in the hands of a very small clique indeed. There will be absolutely no opposition whatever from this side of the House if the right hon. Gentleman will promise to introduce an Amendment of this character. There is a growing feeling that this important question of the appointment of the Income Tax Commissioners ought to be placed on a fairer, a more business like, and a more constitutional basis than it is at the present time. In regard to the qualification, it is £100 a year in most of the counties, but in five counties in South Wales that qualification for some reason or other has been abolished. The requests I make are that the system of electing Income Tax Commissioners should be changed and put into the hands of a representative body; and secondly, that the Land Tax Commissioners who elect the Income Tax Commissioners should be drawn from all classes of the community, in order that they may be in every respect above suspicion.

MR. DALZIEL: This is a Bill which ought to have been passed some three or four years ago. I do not think it is too much to ask that a reply should be made to the questions put by my hon. friend

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as to the question of nomination. In the interests of the passing of business, I hope the Government will reply. If they do not I am prepared to say that other Members may be inclined to press this point still further.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I beg to move that we report Progress.

Motion made and Question proposed—

“That the Committee report Progress, and ask leave to sit again.”—(Mr. A. J. Balfour.)

*SIR CHAS. DILKE: I do hope the right hon. Gentleman will not take that course, for I am sure it is not the desire of my hon. friend to prevent this Bill passing, and I entirely agree with the points which he has raised. As there is a very strong feeling on this matter I hope the right hon. Gentleman will not adhere to the Motion which he has made.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: If this discussion may now be considered to be at an end I have no desire to press the Motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Bill reported, without Amendment; read the third time, and passed.

LUNACY BILL [Lords].

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged.

Bill withdrawn.

CHARITABLE LOANS (IRELAND) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged.

Bill withdrawn.

INEBRIATES ACT (1898) AMENDMENT BILL.

Considered in Committee, and reported, as amended, to be considered To-morrow.

PALATINE COURT OF DURHAM BILL [Lords].

Order for resuming adjourned Debate on Amendment to Second Reading [4th July] read, and discharged.

Bill withdrawn.

2 M

NAVY AND ARMY EXPENDITURE,
1897-8,

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

1. That it appears by the Navy Appropriation Account for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1898, and the statement appended thereto, as follows, viz. :—

(a) That the gross expenditure for certain Navy Services exceeded the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £595,246 2s. 1d., as shown in Column No. 1 of the Schedule hereto appended ; while the gross expenditure for other Navy Services fell short of the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £2,038,302 12s. 8d., as shown in Column No. 2 of the said appended Schedule, so that the gross actual expenditure for the whole of the Navy Services fell short of the gross estimated expenditure by the net sum of £1,443,056 10s. 7d.

(b) That the receipts in aid of certain Navy Services fell short of the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £13,137 17s. 8d., as shown in Column No. 3 of the said appended Schedule ; while the receipts in aid of other Navy Services exceeded the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £59,218 9s. 4d., as shown in Column No. 4 of the said appended Schedule ; so that the total actual receipts in aid of the Grants for Navy Services exceeded the total estimated receipts by the net sum of £46,080 11s. 8d.

(c) That the resulting differences between the Exchequer Grants for Navy Services and the net expenditure are as follows, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Total Surpluses ...	2,041,004	0	5
Total Deficits ...	551,866	18	2
Net Surplus .	£1,489,137	2	3

2. That the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have temporarily authorised the application, in reduction of the net charge on Exchequer Grants for certain Navy Services, of the whole of the sums received in excess of the estimated Appropriations in Aid, in respect of the same Services ; and have also temporarily authorised the application of so much of the said total surpluses on certain Grants for Navy Services as is necessary to cover the said total deficits on other Grants for Navy Services.

3. Resolved, That the application of such sums be sanctioned.

(See Schedule A).

4. That it appears by the Army Appropriation Account for the year ended 31st day of March, 1898, and the statement appended thereto, as follows, viz. :—

(a) That the gross expenditure for certain Army Services exceeded the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £151,696 5s. 6d., as shown in Column No. 1 of the Schedule hereto appended ; while the gross expenditure for other Army Services fell short of the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £167,041 2s. 10d., as shown in Column No. 2 of the said appended Schedule ; so that the gross actual expenditure for the whole of the Army Services fell short of the gross estimated expenditure by the net sum of £15,344 17s. 4d.

(b) That the receipts in aid of certain Army Services fell short of the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £46,536 1s. 11d., as shown in Column No. 3 of the said appended Schedule ; while the receipts in aid of other Army Services exceeded the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £133,300 13s. 11d., as shown in Column No. 4 of the said appended Schedule ; so that the total actual receipts in aid of the Grants for Army Services exceeded the total estimated receipts by the net sum of £86,764 12s.

(c) That the resulting differences between the Exchequer Grants for Army Services and the net expenditure are as follows, viz. :—

Total Surpluses	...£235,876	18	1
Total Deficits	... 133,767	8	9
Net Surplus	£102,109	9	4

the net charge on Exchequer Grants for certain Army Services, of the whole of the sums received in excess of the esti-

SCHEDULE A.

Number of Vote.	Navy Services, 1897-98. Votes.	Gross Expenditure.			Appropriations in Aid.		
		Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure.		Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure.		Deficiencies of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts.	
		1.		2.		3.	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1 -	Wages, &c., of Officers, Seamen, and Boys Coast Guard, and Royal Marines -	...		78,418	3 7	...	9,034 16 3
2 -	Victualling and Clothing for the Navy -	...		18,436	8 9	12,023 18 9	...
3 -	Medical Establishments and Services -	—		4,557	7 7	—	1,875 10 3
4 -	Martial Law -	734	0 8	—		10 16 5	
5 -	Educational Services -	—		1,788	17 0	838 15 8	
6 -	Scientific Services -	—		299	2 3	—	685 4 6
7 -	Royal Naval Reserves -	—		22,298	14 8	—	18 17 2
8 -	Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, &c. :						
Sec. 1	Personnel -	59,255	16 3	—		57 1 4	
Sec. 2	Materiel -	348,753	17 10	—		—	31,655 18 8
Sec. 3	Contract Work -	—		1,884,638	15 7	—	1,712 10 0
9 -	Naval Armaments -	62,153	8 7	—		—	7,757 7 9
10 -	Works, Buildings, and Repairs at Home and Abroad -	—		27,865	3 3	—	2,255 4 0
11 -	Miscellaneous Effective Services -	103,857	5 2	—		—	4,211 4 5
12 -	Admiralty Office -	1,068	4 0	—		—	15 9 9
13 -	Half-Pay, Reserved and Retired Pay -	1,754	4 1	—		58 10 0	
14 -	Naval and Marine Pensions, Gratuities, and Compassionate Allowances -	10,071	6 7	—		9 15 6	
15 -	Civil Pensions and Gratuities -	4,780	3 9	—		—	14 6 7
16 -	Additional Naval Force for Service in Australasian Waters -	42	16 0	—		139 0 0	
	Amount written off as irrecoverable -	2,574	19 2				
		595,246	2 1	2,038,302	12 8	13,137 17 8	59,218 9 4
Net Surplus, £1,443,056		10	7	Net Surplus, £46,080		11	8
Surplus surrendered to the Exchequer		—		£1,489,137		2	3

5. That the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have temporarily authorised the application, in reduction of

mated Appropriations in Aid, in respect of the same Services; and have also temporarily authorised the application of so

much of the said total surpluses on | on other Grants for Army Services.
 certain Grants for Army Services as is | 6. Resolved, That the application of
 necessary to cover the said total deficits | such sums be sanctioned.

SCHEDULE B.

No. of Vote.	Army Services, 1897-98. Votes.	Gross Expenditure.		Appropriations in Aid.	
		Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure.	Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure.	Deficiencies of Actual as compared with Esti- mated Re- ceipts.	Surpluses of Actual as compared with Esti- mated Re- ceipts.
		1.	2.	3.	4.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1	Pay, &c., of Army (General Staff, Regiments, Reserve, and Departments)	52,171 3 11	...	...	3,572 10 4
2	Medical Establishments: Pay, &c. ...	6,211 18 10	...	...	170 14 2
3	Militia: Pay, Extra Pay, Bounty, &c. ...	...	12,804 1 3	...	2,191 19 3
4	Yeomanry Cavalry: Pay and Allowances ...	...	475 11 9	...	3 0 0
5	Volunteer Corps: Pay and Allowances ...	...	1,378 12 7	...	180 9 6
6	Transport and Remounts ...	23,350 4 0	...	...	11,223 15 7
7	Provisions, Forage, and other Supplies ...	40,856 10 5	...	...	11,534 4 3
8	Clothing Establishments, and Services ...	14,742 3 2	...	15,554 12 7	...
9	Warlike and other Stores: Supply and Repair... ..	...	99,201 19 2	...	90,970 12 4
10	Works, Buildings, and Repairs: Cost, including Staff for Engineer Services ...	...	37,643 13 4	30,864 4 4	...
11	Establishments for Military Education ...	...	1,281 17 3	...	1,476 7 6
12	Miscellaneous Effective Services ...	5,044 9 8	...	...	557 14 6
13	War Office: Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges... ..	...	3,336 13 11	...	140 0 11
14	Non-effective Charges for Officers, &c. ...	6,541 15 6	...	...	8,296 2 4
15	Non-effective Charges for Men, &c. ...	...	10,918 13 7	...	2,983 3 3
16	Superannuation, Compensation, and Compassionate Allowances ...	2,539 13 7	...	117 5 0	...
	Balance irrecoverable... ..	238 6 5	...	...	...
		151,696 5 6	167,041 2 10	46,536 1 11	133,300 10 11
		Net Surplus, £15,344 17 4		Net Surplus, £86,764 12 0	
		Surplus surrendered to the Exchequer ...		£102,109 9 4	

—*Mr. Hanbury.*

Resolutions to be reported To-morrow.

Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

In pursuance of the Order of the House of the 17th day of this instant July,

Adjourned at twenty minutes after Twelve of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 1st August 1899.

ROYAL ASSENT.

COMMISSION.

The following Bills received the Royal Assent :

1. Metropolis Management Acts Amendment (Bye-laws).
2. Gordon Memorial College at Khartoum.
3. Tithe Rent-charge (Rates).
4. Congested Districts Board (Ireland).
5. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 4.)
6. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 10.)
7. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 11.)
8. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 12.)
9. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 13.)
10. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 14.)
11. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 15.)
12. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 17.)
13. Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1.)
14. Gas and Water Orders Confirmation.
15. Water Orders Confirmation.
16. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4.)
17. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6.)
18. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9.)
19. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10.)
20. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12.)
21. Local Government Provisional Order (No. 15.)
22. Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1.)
23. Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2.)
24. Burgh Police (Scotland) Provisional Order.

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25. Leith Harbour and Docks.
26. Liverpool Overhead Railway.
27. All Saints' Church (Cardiff).
28. Great Grimsby Street Tramways.
29. West Gloucestershire Water.
30. Lowestoft Water and Gas.
31. Totland Water.
32. Brighton Marine Palace and Pier.
33. Glasgow Corporation (Gas and Water).
34. Millwall Dock.
35. Ayr Burgh.
36. Furness Railway.
37. Glasgow Corporation (Tramways, etc.)
38. Kirkcaldy Corporation and Tramways.
39. South-Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Companies.
40. Birmingham Corporation.
41. Milton Creek Conservancy.
42. Woking Water and Gas.
43. Mersey Docks and Harbour Board (Pilotage).
44. Greenock and Port Glasgow Tramways.
45. Brooke's Park (Londonderry).
46. Owen's College, Manchester.
47. Lincoln and East Coast Railway and Dock.
48. Lowestoft Promenade Pier.
49. Midland and South-Western Junction Railway.
50. Bristol Gas.
51. South Hants Water.
52. Goole Urban District Council.
53. Great Yarmouth Corporation.
54. Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway Company.
55. Blackpool Improvement.
56. Central London Railway.
57. Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours.
58. Great Western Railway.
59. Manchester Corporation (General Powers).
60. Lea Bridge District Gas.
61. Sunderland Corporation.
62. Menstone Water.
63. Baker Street and Waterloo Railway.
64. Derby Corporation Tramways, &c.
65. London United Tramways.
66. Redditch Gas.
67. Stockport Corporation.
68. Loughborough Corporation.
69. Mersey Docks and Harbour Board (Finance).
70. Port Talbot Railway and Docks.

2 N

71. Whitehaven Corporation.
72. Humber Conservancy.
73. Great Northern Railway.
74. Great Northern and Strand Railway.
75. Great Western and Great Central Railway Companies.
76. London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway (Various Powers).
77. South-Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Companies (New Lines).
78. Stockport Corporation Water.
79. Walker and Wallsend Union Gas (Electric Lighting).
80. Godalming Corporation Water.
81. London and North-Western Railway (New Railways).
82. Sheffield Corporation Markets.
83. Weston-super-Mare Grand Pier.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY (ADDITIONAL POWERS) BILL.

RENFREW BURGH AND HARBOUR EXTENSION BILL [H.L.].

Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to.

CALEDONIAN RAILWAY (GENERAL POWERS) BILL [H.L.].

ABERDEEN JOINT PASSENGER STATION BILL [H.L.].

LEIGH-ON-SEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL [H.L.].

MOSS SIDE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (TRAMWAYS) BILL [H.L.].

STETTFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (TRAMWAYS) BILL [H.L.].

WITHINGTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (TRAMWAYS) BILL [H.L.].

WESTON SUPER-MARE, CLEVEDON, AND PORTISHEAD TRAMWAYS COMPANY (LIGHT RAILWAY EXTENSIONS) BILL [H.L.].

YEADON AND GUISELEY GAS BILL [H.L.].

Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to.

NORTH-WEST LONDON RAILWAY BILL.

BROMPTON AND PICCADILLY CIRCUS RAILWAY BILL.

LEEDS CORPORATION BILL.

CHARING CROSS, EUSTON AND HAMPSTEAD RAILWAY BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

GAS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 2) BILL [H.L.].

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 14) BILL.

DARWEN CORPORATION BILL.

WARRINGTON CORPORATION BILL.

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

CROMER PROTECTION BILL [H.L.].

HASTINGS HARBOUR BILL [H.L.].

OLDHAM CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

OYSTERMOUTH RAILWAY OR TRAMROAD BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons, agreed to, with Amendments.

GLASGOW AND SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY (GENERAL POWERS) BILL [H.L.].

GREAT YARMOUTH WATER BILL [H.L.].

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

WOLVERHAMPTON TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments; the said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 20) BILL.

Read 3^a (according to Order), with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 2) BILL [H.L.].

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 3) BILL [H.L.].

Commons Amendments considered (according to Order), and agreed to.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

TRADE REPORTS (1899) ANNUAL SERIES.

- No. 2323. Morocco (Dar-al-Baida);
No. 2324. China (Canton);
No. 2325. China (Chinkiang).

NAVY.

I. (Courts-Martial)—Returns of the number of courts-martial held and summary punishments inflicted on seamen of the Royal Navy, etc., during the year 1898.

II. (Health)—Statistical Report of the health of the Navy for the year 1898.

FOREIGN LABOUR STATISTICS (BOARD OF TRADE, LABOUR DEPARTMENT).

Abstract of foreign labour statistics relating to wages, hours of labour, trade disputes, and co-operation.

TRADE UNIONS.

Report by the Chief Labour Correspondent of the Board of Trade on trade unions, 1898; with comparative statistics for 1892-97.

PRISONS (IRELAND).

Twenty-first Report of the General Prisons Board, Ireland, 1898-99; with an Appendix.

COLONIAL LOANS.

Explanatory statement as to proposed loans comprised in the schedule to the Colonial Loans Bill, 1899.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

NAVAL PRIZE MONEY.

Account showing the receipt and expenditure of naval prize, bounty, salvage, and other moneys between the 1st April, 1898, and the 31st March, 1899. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PETITIONS.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition in favour of; of Commissioners of the Burgh of Partick; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

ANCHORS AND CHAIN CABLES BILL.

SEATS FOR SHOP ASSISTANTS BILL.

SUMMARY JURISDICTION ACT (1879) AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to.

BODIES CORPORATE (JOINT TENANCY) BILL [H.L.]

Returned from the Commons agreed to.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON ACT (1898) AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the Commons, with the Amendment agreed to.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Order of the Day for the House being put into Committee, read.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: My Lords, on the motion that the House go into Committee on this Bill, I wish to say a single word. It will be in the recollection of your Lordships that on Thursday last we had a most interesting speech from the noble Earl the Chairman of Committees, and it was the general opinion of the House that the noble Earl should take some part in the proceedings in Committee. The noble Lord the Secretary for Scotland told us that he would have an interview with the Chairman of Committees, and that, as a result, some agreement with regard to Amendments would no doubt be come to. He expressed the hope that when we came to the Committee stage he would be in a position to tell us that arrangements had been arrived at in this respect. I would ask whether the noble Lords have come to any agreement as to the amendment of the Bill in detail, and whether it is their intention to make these Amendments on the present stage, or on the Standing Committee, or on the Report stage.

*THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH): My Lords, the Amendments standing in my name, almost without exception, are those agreed upon between the noble Earl the Chairman of Committees and myself. With one exception, I think, I have accepted every Amendment

he suggested. The one I did not accept had reference to the personal position of the Chairman of Committees. I understand that in the House of Commons the Chairman is appointed for the Parliament, whereas in this House he is appointed for the session. The noble Earl's Amendment on this point could be inserted on the Report stage if necessary. I think the noble Earl the Chairman of Committees will bear me out when I say that there is contained in the Amendments standing in my name on the Paper every suggestion, with that one exception, which he made to me.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of MORLEY): I confirm what has fallen from my noble friend. He was good enough to consult me with regard to the Amendments, and I have nothing further to suggest. I shrink from creating such a precedent as that hinted at by my noble friend opposite, and I think it would be extremely inconvenient that I should, as Chairman of the Committee, take part in the discussions and move Amendments when the House is in Committee. My predecessors never did it, and I cannot help thinking that it would constitute a precedent which ought not to be created. With regard to the Amendment which my noble friend opposite, the Earl of Camperdown, has moved on Clause 9, I am quite as anxious as either of the noble Lords opposite to render the process as cheap and as speedy as possible, but I confess I do not like the idea of doing away with an appeal to the Joint Committee altogether. I do not like the suggestion of my noble friend that this appeal should only be allowed on a motion in the House itself. I think it is very objectionable that in every case of opposition—I do not think these cases will be frequent—there should be practically a debate in the House as to whether the matter should go to a Joint Committee or not. It is impossible that the House can sift the evidence and get to the bottom of the matter in dispute, and therefore I would venture to ask your Lordships not to assent to that Amendment, but to leave the Bill as it stands. I do not think it will be prudent or wise to dispense with the power of rehearing before a Joint Committee.

House in Committee, according to Order.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh.

Clause 1 amended and agreed to.

Clause 2:—

***LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH**: I have an Amendment to this clause which was foreshadowed on the Second Reading by the noble Earl the Chairman of Committees, and which, after consideration, I have agreed to accept. It implies that the Chairmen shall report upon every case.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 11, to leave out 'the Chairmen report, and it appears from such report,' and insert 'it appears from the report of the Chairmen.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

Amendment agreed to.

***LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH**: My next Amendment is to leave out Sub-section 5. The noble Earl opposite (the Earl of Camperdown) has an Amendment standing in his name on the Paper to the same effect, and I have agreed to accept it on the suggestion of the noble Lord the Chairman of Committees. The fifth sub-section provides that, except under the provisions of this Act, it shall not be lawful to apply to Parliament by Private Bill for powers which may be obtained by Provisional Order in terms of this Act. The point is covered by words at the beginning of the first clause.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 35, to leave out Sub-section (5)."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I understand that there will be no possibility of anyone applying for a Private Bill for Scotland without complying with the provisions of this Bill.

***LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH**: Clause 1 provides that when any public authority or persons desire to obtain Parliamentary powers in regard to any matter affecting public or private interests in Scotland for which they are entitled to apply to Parliament by a petition for leave to bring in a Private Bill, they shall proceed by presenting a petition to the Secretary for Scotland, praying him to issue a Provisional Order. If the Chairmen report that the matter

is one which should be dealt with by a Private Bill there will be the Private Bill procedure, as at present.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 3 :—

***LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH :** The Amendment to this clause standing in my name was drafted at the suggestion of the noble Earl the Chairman of Committees. I think it is also in the direction suggested by the noble Earl opposite, and unless there is any objection taken I shall not reargue the point.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 39, to leave out 'no report,' and insert 'the Chairmen report that the Provisional Order may proceed.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Consequential Amendment agreed to.

Clause 3, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 4 :—

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH : My Lords, I have an Amendment on the Paper to leave out Clause 4, which provides that :

"(1) On or before the first day of January next after the commencement of this Act there shall be formed a panel of persons (hereinafter referred to as the extra-Parliamentary panel) qualified by experience of affairs to act as Commissioners under this Act.

"(2) The extra-Parliamentary panel shall be formed in manner following; that is to say—

"(a) The Chairmen, acting jointly with the Secretary for Scotland, shall nominate twenty persons qualified as aforesaid, and the persons so nominated shall constitute the extra-Parliamentary panel, and shall remain thereon until the expiration of five years, any casual vacancy on the panel caused by death or resignation being filled up by the Chairmen acting jointly with the Secretary for Scotland.

"(b) At the expiration of every period of five years the extra-Parliamentary panel may be re-formed in like manner and with the like incidents."

I have put this Amendment down with a view to secure that this preliminary local

inquiry shall be conducted by a Commission consisting purely of Members of the two Houses. It is unfortunately an arithmetical fact that Clause 4 comes before Clause 9, but really and truly it depends so very much on what the noble Lord does with reference to Clause 9 whether I attach any importance to Clause 4 at all. If there were to be only one inquiry, I think it is desirable that it should be a purely Parliamentary inquiry; but, if there is to be a second inquiry, I should omit the Parliamentary panel altogether, and leave the local inquiry to be conducted by the extra-Parliamentary body. Holding that view, I think it will be the most convenient thing for the House and for myself if I refrain from moving my Amendment now, and wait until I see what the noble Lord will do with regard to my Amendment to Clause 9. In the event of Clause 9 being omitted, I reserve to myself the power of moving to omit Clause 4 at a later stage.

***LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH :** I think it will also be for the convenience of the House if the arguments on Clause 9 are reserved till we reach that clause.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES : Then the noble Lord does not move his Amendment to omit Clause 4 ?

LORD TWEEDMOUTH : Not at this stage.

Clause 4 agreed to.

Clause 5 :—

***LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH :** The first Amendment to this clause standing in my name was also suggested by the noble Earl the Chairman of Committees. The clause, as it at present stands, provides that when it is determined that Commissioners shall be appointed for the purpose of inquiring as to the propriety of making and issuing a Provisional Order or Orders under this Act, the chairmen shall, with due regard to the character and magnitude of the provisions in the proposed Order or Orders, appoint four Commissioners for that purpose, and shall, at the same time, nominate one of the Commissioners as chairman. My Amendment proposes to leave out the words, "with due regard to the

character and magnitude of the provisions in the proposed Order or Orders."

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 37, to leave out from 'shall' to 'appoint' in line 39."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Consequential Amendment agreed to.

***LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH :** Section 6 of this clause enacts in case of any casual vacancy among the Commissioners, or in the office of Chairman of Commissioners, caused by death or resignation, or inability to give attendance, such resignation shall be filled up by the Secretary for Scotland by appointing a member of any of the panels, and in the case of a vacancy in the office of chairman, by nominating as chairman one of the remaining Commissioners. I move to omit the words "and in the case of a vacancy in the office of chairman, by nominating as chairman one of the remaining Commissioners." It is not thought necessary to put in those words, because they will limit the discretion of the Secretary for Scotland in the appointment of a chairman in a manner which is not desirable.

Amendment moved—

"In line 24, to leave out from 'panels' to the end of the sub-section."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

Amendment agreed to.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN : The two Amendments standing in my name deal with Sub-section 8, which provides that Scottish Members of either House of Parliament shall not be disqualified from acting as Commissioners at the local inquiry. I move to substitute "neither" for "not," and to insert after "acting" the words "not preferred" on line 35. The clause, as it stands, I think, gives Scottish Members a preference which is undesirable. It would be a modified form of Home Rule which does not obtain in regard to England and Ireland, and which I do not think would prove to the advantage of Scotland.

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 35, to leave out 'not' and insert 'neither,' and after 'acting' insert 'nor preferred.'"

Lord Balfour of Burleigh.

***LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH :** I do not think this Amendment would make any real difference, and therefore I will offer no objection to it.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH : I agree with the noble Lord that the Amendment will not make any difference, but I think it is rather a direction against entrusting Scottish Members with the duties under this Bill. It seems to me that as the clause stands, it leaves it perfectly open to the Selecting Committee to select such Members of Parliament and such Peers as may be convenient. I think the words proposed by the noble Earl below the Gangway would almost amount to a warning to the Chairmen not to take Scottish Peers and Members of Parliament except under exceptional circumstances. Surely it is much better to leave the thing open, and allow the Chairmen to decide the point.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN : I am afraid I read the section exactly contrary to the noble Lord. I have heard arguments put forward for the appointment of Members belonging to a particular division of the United Kingdom to deal with matters affecting that particular division. I think it is quite right to say that Scottish Members shall not be disqualified, but I can conceive an argument being set up that the special mention of Scottish Peers and Members of Parliament in this way means that they are to be preferred. If you are to make a special mention of Scottish Members, it is only right that you should say they are neither to be disqualified nor preferred.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 5, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 6 :—

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN : I have an Amendment to leave out Sub-section 3, which provides that the Commissioners may hear and decide upon the preamble before discussing clauses. The procedure adopted in the sub-section is that of the House of Commons, which differs from that of your Lordships' House, and I think it would be much better to leave it to the Committee to proceed as they think best. In the House of Commons they first of all pass

the preamble, which is the principle, and then proceed to discuss the clauses. In your Lordships' House the procedure is the reverse, and much more in accordance with common sense. Committees of this House, after the case for a Bill has been heard, decide whether or not the Bill may proceed. If it may proceed, the Chairman says so, and the clauses are then gone through. After that has been done, and the Committee are convinced that all the clauses are in good order, they then, and not till then, pass the preamble, which means the passing of the Bill. I hope your Lordships will agree to my Amendment, and omit altogether the direction as to procedure.

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 8, to leave out sub-section (3).—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

***LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH**: I do not agree with the noble Lord as to the procedure in this House being different from that in the other House. When I have to act as Chairman of a Private Bill Committee, the procedure has generally been to decide on the preamble before going through the clauses. However, I will not discuss the matter here. I have no objection to leaving out the sub-section. It is quite obvious that the Committee will have this power whether the sub-section is in or not, and I think it would be better, on the whole, to leave it out.

Amendment agreed to.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Clause 6, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 7 and 8 agreed to.

Clause 9.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: My Lords, I have an Amendment to move to this clause. The clause provides that if, before the expiration of seven days after the Second Reading of a Confirmation Bill in the House in which it originates, a petition is presented against any Order comprised in the Bill, the latter shall be referred to a joint committee of both Houses, which shall hear evidence. The effect of this provision is that in the House in which the Bill originates, and in that House alone, a Joint Committee

must be granted as a matter of course, if a petition is presented, and I move to leave out the words, "the House in which it originates," on line 11, and to insert "either House," and on line 12, after the first "Bill," to insert, "and if upon motion made either House do resolve that it is expedient to inquire into the propriety of assenting to the prayer of the said petition." The Bill, as it stands, gives the petitioner, who, presumably, has presented his case at the local inquiry unsuccessfully, the right to come to the House in which the Bill originated and demand a Joint Committee. It appears to me that that would be giving too much power to the petitioner under a Bill which is not of first-rate importance, and would cause unnecessary expense. I am very much in favour of retaining the authority of Parliament over these matters. One of the objects of the Private Legislation Procedure Bill is to diminish the expenses of Private Bill Legislation, and I think the only way in which that can be done is by giving the Houses of Parliament some control over the granting or otherwise of these Joint Committees. If my Amendment is adopted, the first sub-section will read:—

"If, before the expiration of seven days after the Second Reading of a Confirmation Bill under the immediately preceding section, in either House a petition be presented against any Order comprised in the Bill, and if, upon motion made, either House do resolve that it is expedient to inquire into the propriety of assenting to the prayer of the said petition, the Bill shall, subject to the Standing Orders, be referred to a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament," etc.

The difference is that in the clause as it stands the petitioner has an absolute right to claim a Joint Committee, whereas if my Amendment is adopted the Houses of Parliament will be given some control over the granting or otherwise of these Joint Committees. I agree with the noble Earl the Chairman of Committees that it is, as a matter of principle, undesirable that these matters should be discussed by the whole House, but at the same time I do not see my way out of that difficulty except by incurring another difficulty which seems to me much greater—namely, a considerable increase in the expense. I hope, therefore, that your Lordships will accept my Amendment.

Amendments moved—

"In page 7, line 11, to leave out 'the House in which it originates,' and insert 'either

House'; and in line 12, after the first 'Bill' insert 'and if upon motion made either House do resolve that it is expedient to inquire into the propriety of assenting to the prayer of the said petition.'—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: My Lords, as I indicated on the Second Reading, I have great sympathy with the object which the noble Earl has in view, but the Amendment as it stands will not effect that object as far as the other House is concerned. After the Second Reading has taken place in the House of Commons, I understand that a Bill of the kind contemplated stands automatically referred to a Committee, and does not go back to the House of Commons as whole until the Committee has reported, whether that Committee be an unopposed Committee or a Select Committee. There is, therefore, so far as the House of Commons is concerned, no stage at which that House could resolve that it is expedient to do this or that. In this House, and under our procedure, it could, of course, be done by a motion, but not in the House of Commons. I think it is admitted by everybody that in the case of some Bills, at any rate, there must be a second inquiry. In the case of a Bill of an important character, provision for a second inquiry is necessary, and in any case provisions prejudicial to absent parties might be inserted in an Order, and it is only fair that those parties should have the opportunity which a second hearing will afford of appealing against those provisions. Great difficulty would be experienced in discriminating between those cases in which it is really necessary to have a second inquiry, and those in which it is not. It would have to be decided by a Vote in the House, to which I have great objection. The Amendment would prove a temptation to those interested in Private Bills to use the House as a whole for the discussion of those Bills, a practice which is inconvenient and ought not to be resorted to more often than is absolutely necessary. It may be said that there will not be a large number of Bills in which this can happen, but I do not think it is advisable that we should do anything which would stimulate that practice. I am sorry this discussion has had to be taken while the noble Earl is in the chair, but he has stated that the Amendment ought not to be accepted. The safeguard against the abuse of this second hearing, and it is a most efficient one, lies in the power

Earl of Camperdown.

of the Joint Committee, if they feel that the second inquiry has been forced by the undue obstinacy of one of the parties, to give costs against that party. The last sub-section of Clause 9 provides that unanimity is not necessary on this point, and that the Joint Committee may, by a majority, award costs. If, however, there is disclosed a strong feeling by your Lordships that the risk of the discussion of Bills in the full House would not be so great an evil as the provisions in this clause as it stands, I would be quite willing to put down a clause, drafted under the guidance of the officers of the other House of Parliament, for discussion at a later stage, but I am afraid I could not support it very warmly. I have arrived at that conclusion almost entirely on the ground that, whatever may be the defects under the procedure as now prescribed in this Bill, the risk of having discussions on the merits of private legislation in the whole House is one which ought not to be unnecessarily run. I was interested to hear the noble Lord (Lord Tweedmouth) say that he would be prepared, if there was a double inquiry, to omit the Parliamentary panel altogether, and allow the first inquiry to be held by the extra-Parliamentary panel. That is entirely my own view. That is the form in which the Bill was introduced, and no one regrets more than I do that the change has been made, but it was made and agreed to in deference to what we believed to be the overwhelming opinion in another place. To make such an Amendment now would be to imperil the Bill, and, though my sympathies are with the noble Lord opposite on this point, I could not hold out any hope of such an Amendment as he has suggested being accepted.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: If the noble Earl the Chairman of Committees and the noble Lord the Secretary for Scotland are both against me, it will not be much use dividing on the point, but I will readily accept the offer made to me by the noble Lord, and if he will give me the clause which was drafted I could, if it would meet the case, put it down on the Report Stage, when it could be discussed by the noble Earl the Chairman of Committees.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I will give the noble Lord the terms of the Clause.

Amendments (by leave of the House) withdrawn.

*LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I am afraid that as the noble Lord will not give the noble Earl (the Earl of Camperdown) the crust he asks for, he will not be likely to give me the whole loaf for which I am about to ask—namely, the omission of the second Parliamentary inquiry altogether. I feel compelled, however, to take the opportunity of putting my views with regard to this question on record. The noble Lord the Secretary for Scotland said there was an admitted necessity in all quarters for a second inquiry. I think he is going rather far in saying that. I do not admit any such necessity, and so far as the predominant opinion of Scottish Members in the House of Commons is concerned they agree with me, for they voted, thirty-six for and nine against the omission of the second inquiry. The noble Lord has only given them half what they asked for by giving a local Parliamentary inquiry in the first instance. They also asked that the subsequent Parliamentary inquiry should be abolished, but that portion of their request has been refused. The noble Earl said he was interested to hear that I was in favour, if the Bill is to remain as it is, of the omission of the Parliamentary panel. I certainly am, for the reason that you would then, at any rate, get some relief for Members of both Houses of Parliament. In the Bill as it stands you throw on the two Houses the burden of both of these inquiries, because you are not going to call on the Members of the extra-Parliamentary panel until you have exhausted all means of pressure on Members of the two Houses of Parliament to sit on these Commissions. The First Lord of the Treasury made that point very clear in the Debate in the House of Commons. He explained that, in the event of it being found impossible to get two Peers to sit, the whole of the Commissioners might be Members of the House of Commons, and, in the event of no Members of the latter House being willing to act, Peers might be substituted. Not until the two Houses are exhausted will any call be made on the extra-Parliamentary panel. In my opinion it is desirable that Parliament should keep a firm hold over Private Bill procedure, and I think the very best form of inquiry that could be held is the Parliamentary inquiry by a Commission formed

of Members of the two Houses of Parliament. That, I believe, will give by far the greatest confidence to applicants for these Provisional Orders and to the public generally. But I entirely join issue with the noble Lord when he says it is imperative that there should be a second inquiry, more especially if it is to be a Parliamentary one. I think, in Private Bill legislation, that one inquiry conducted by a Joint Committee of the two Houses is quite sufficient. That would remove one stage in the proceedings, and do much to cheapen the cost of Private Bill legislation. The noble Lord said that if there was no second inquiry it would be rather hard on those who were absent from the first inquiry. If there is only one inquiry, all persons interested in the Bill would be certain to appear before the tribunal. Besides, if the second inquiry is retained, no saving whatever will be effected in the cost of Private Bill procedure, for there will be the same protracted proceedings, with counsel and witnesses, at Westminster as at present. I will recite very briefly the stages of inquiry through which opposed legislation under this Bill will have to pass. There is, first of all, the application to the Secretary for Scotland, who inquires into it. The matter then goes before the Chairmen of the two Houses of Parliament, who again go into the subject. It then goes before the local inquiry, which I maintain will be fully as expensive as any inquiry held within the four walls of Westminster. It then comes back to the Secretary for Scotland, who brings in a Confirmation Bill. It is then referred to a second inquiry by a Joint Committee of the two Houses, and I defy anyone to tell me that that form of procedure is going to be in the slightest degree cheaper or simpler than the present procedure. Surely, in schemes under this Bill, which will not be large and important schemes, we might do away with the second inquiry, and make the experiment of a single inquiry to be conducted by a Commission of Members of Parliament and Peers. I again repeat that, in my opinion, if you retain the Bill in its present form, if you retain the double inquiry in the case of all opposed Bills, you will not have given anything to Scottish applicants for Provisional Orders in the way of simplicity or cheapness which they would not have under Private Bill procedure.

Amendment moved—

"In page 7, to leave out Clause 9."—(*Lord Tweedmouth.*)

***LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH**: I cannot agree with the last remark of the noble Lord. I think we shall give a good deal to Scottish applicants, because I have every hope that the first inquiry, which will be conducted locally, will be conducted with such efficiency that there will be fewer appeals to the Joint Committee than the noble Lord seems to contemplate; but that there ought to be power for a second inquiry in some cases seems to be the general opinion of those who are skilled in Private Bill legislation. If it is known that there is only to be one inquiry, it will minimise the importance of the schemes which will be taken under the provision of the Bill. The noble Lord says that if there is only one inquiry people will be more anxious to be represented. I think the noble Lord has failed to grasp the point I endeavoured to make, which was that provisions are sometimes put into the Bill by the first Committee which are considered by those who are absent to be prejudicial to their interests. Those persons could not be present at the first inquiry, because they did not know that they would be in any way interested. I am afraid I must at this stage adhere to the clause as it stands.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: Having made my protest, and as it is a very hot afternoon and there are only a few Members on this side of the House, I shall not put the House to the trouble of dividing.

Amendment negatived.

Clause 9, agreed to.

Clauses 10 to 15, agreed to.

Clause 16, amended, and agreed to.

Clause 17:—

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I have an Amendment to this clause which is somewhat less drastic than the Amendment to delete the clause, which stands in the name of the noble Earl, the Earl of Camperdown. I think my Amendment will meet the exigencies of the case. I

would propose that in line 37 the words "consider such objection, and may, if they think fit, either report to the Secretary for Scotland that such objection raises an issue or issues which ought to be dealt with by Private Bill and not by Provisional Order, or" be struck out. If these words are omitted, the clause will read:

"If any objection to any draft Order is made to the Chairmen on the ground that the undertaking proposed to be authorised by the Order will destroy or injure any building or other object of historical interest, or will injuriously affect any natural scenery, the Chairmen shall refer such objection to the Secretary for Scotland or to the Commissioners, as the case may be, who shall give to those by whom it is made a proper opportunity of being heard in support of it."

I have as strong a desire as anybody to secure, as far as possible, the retention of objects of historical interest, and to prevent unnecessary injury to the beauties of my native country, but I think that to impose on the Chairmen of the two Houses the duty of considering objections on the ground that the undertaking proposed would destroy or injure any building or other object of historical interest, or would injuriously affect any natural scenery, is too much to expect from them.

Amendment moved—

"In line 37, to leave out the words 'consider such objection, and may, if they think fit, either report to the Secretary for Scotland that such objection raises an issue or issues which ought to be dealt with by Private Bill and not by Provisional Order, or.'"—(*Lord Tweedmouth.*)

***LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH**: I would be prepared to go even further than the noble Lord, and not put the Chairmen to any trouble in this matter at all. I think the complaints should be made to the Secretary for Scotland, who should refer them to the Commissioners for inquiry. If the noble Lord will accept an Amendment in this form I will put it down for the next stage.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH assented.

Amendment (by leave of the House) withdrawn.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: As the Chairmen are to go out of the clause,

one of my objections to it disappears, but my chief objection is to the wording of the clause. The clause provides that :

“If any objection to any draft Order is made to the Chairmen on the ground that the undertaking proposed to be authorised by the Order will destroy or injure any building or other object of historical interest, or will injuriously affect any natural scenery,” etc.

I contend that it is too large a power to give to any person to say that if an objection to a draft Order is made on this ground the matter shall be inquired into. It may happen that one of your Lordships who had never been in Scotland might take it into his head that a Provisional Order might interfere with some scenery in Scotland, and in his zeal might make this objection, which would compel the promoter of the Provisional Order to undergo an elaborate procedure. It should be provided that this objection should only be lodged by a number of persons, but I move the omission of the clause altogether.

Amendment moved—

“In page 9, to leave out Clause 17.”—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH : I should be sorry to see the clause omitted altogether. There is a precedent for it in the Light Railways Act. I will, however, propose an Amendment at the next stage which will, I hope, go far enough to meet the objection of the noble Earl.

Amendment (by leave of the House) withdrawn.

Clause 17 agreed to.

Clause 18 :—

LORD TWEEDMOUTH : This clause enacts that the expression “agent” includes all law agents within the meaning of the Law Agents (Scotland) Act, 1873, any person entitled to practise as solicitor in any court of justice in England or Ireland, and any person entitled to practise as agent according to the practice and rules of either House of Parliament in cases of Private Bills and matters relating thereto. It seems to me that this is rather hard on the Scottish law agents,

because they have not the power to appear in connection with Private Bills relating to England and Ireland. The clause, as it originally stood, provided that the expression “agent” should include any person who, at the passing of the Act, was entitled to practise as an agent according to the rules and practice in either House of Parliament in connection with Private Bills and matters relating thereto. This provision is much better than the one now in the Bill, which gives English and Irish solicitors power to practise in Scotland at the local inquiries held in connection with Scottish Bills. I object to the opportunity being taken in this Bill to confer on English and Irish solicitors powers which are not equally given to their Scottish friends on the other side of the Border.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH : The noble Lord is correct in saying that these words were introduced in the other House. There is no exact precedent in this case, and therefore we could not go according to precedent. The inquiry which will be originated under this Bill partakes more of an Imperial nature than an inquiry in a Scottish court of justice, and therefore we did not resist the Amendment putting in these words in another place. The noble and learned Lord, the Lord Chancellor, has, however, suggested to me that there are some difficulties in regard to this matter. Who would, for instance, exercise jurisdiction over the law agents who were practising in this way under this clause? I should like time to consider the noble Lord's Amendment, and I will give him my answer on Thursday. Still, I must say that the Scottish law agents are not the men I take them to be if they cannot hold their own in their own country.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH : My point is that if you give this power to English and Irish solicitors you ought also to give Scottish law agents the power to appear here in connection with English and Irish Bills.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH : I will consider the matter before the next stage of the Bill.

Clause 18 agreed to.

Standing Committee negatived. The Report of Amendments to be received on Thursday next; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 189.)

SMALL HOUSES (ACQUISITION OF OWNERSHIP) BILL.

Amendments reported (according to Order).

*LORD DAVEY: My Lords, I apologise to the House, and to the noble Earl in charge of this Bill, the Earl of Selborne, for not having put my Amendments on the Paper for the Standing Committee. Circumstances, however, over which I had no control, compelled me to be elsewhere, which accounts for my troubling your Lordships with the Amendments at this stage. Section 3 of Clause 3, as it stands, provides that:

"Where default is made in complying with the Statutory condition as to residence, the local authority may take possession of the house, and where default is made in complying with any of the other statutory conditions (whether the statutory condition as to residence has or has not been complied with), the local authority may either take possession of the house, or order the sale of the house without taking possession."

Under this clause, if default is made in complying with the statutory condition as to residence, the local authority is empowered only to take possession of the House, and not to order the sale of it without taking possession. I do not see any reason for making this distinction in the clause, and as I am afraid it will lead to very inconvenient results I have placed an Amendment on the Paper which, if agreed to, will make the clause read as follows:

"Where default is made in complying with any of the statutory conditions the local authority may either take possession of the house or order the sale of the house without taking possession."

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 14, to leave out from 'with' to 'any' in line 16; and in line 17, to leave out 'other', and leave out from 'conditions' to 'the' in line 18."—(Lord Davey.)

THE EARL OF SELBORNE: I am prepared to accept the noble and learned Lord's Amendment, which is, in my opinion, a distinct improvement.

Amendment agreed to.

*LORD DAVEY: My next Amendment is in Section 4 of the same clause, which provides that in the case of the breach of any condition other than that of punctual payment of the principal and interest of the advance, the authority shall, not less than two months previously to taking possession or ordering a sale, call on the proprietor to comply with the condition and, if he so complies within those two months, shall not take possession or order a sale as the case may be. Under this clause, if the owner makes default in the condition as to residence, notice must be given to him, and nothing can be done for two months, during which time the house will probably remain derelict. The effect of my Amendment would be to make the clause read:

"In the case of the breach of any condition other than that of punctual payment of the principal and interest of the advance, or the condition as to residence," etc.

The effect will be to enable the local authority, whenever default is made as to the conditions of residence, to put their powers in force.

Amendment moved—

"In line 22, after 'advance,' to insert 'or the condition as to residence.'"—(Lord Davey.)

THE EARL OF SELBORNE: I quite admit that the case described by the noble and learned Lord is a possible one, but his Amendment, if accepted, would deprive the purchaser of the *locus parentis* which I think is legitimately his under certain circumstances. His absence may be a temporary one during which he may have lent or let his house. He may, under the provisions of this Bill, be absent for a certain purpose, and he might have overstayed what I will call the leave allowed him under the Bill. Therefore, I think the Amendment of the noble and learned Lord might prove exceedingly harsh. There is no provision made, not only in this particular clause, but generally, for the case of a proprietor who simply abandons his property and who cannot be traced, and to meet that case, if the noble and learned Lord will withdraw his Amendment, I will propose the insertion, in line 23

of the same page, after the word "shall," of the words "unless the address of the proprietor cannot be ascertained." The section would then read :

"In the case of the breach of any condition other than that of punctual payment of the principal and interest of the advance, the authority shall, unless the address of the proprietor cannot be ascertained, not less than two months previously to taking possession or ordering a sale, call on the proprietor," etc.

That will obviate the necessity for a notice in the case referred to by the noble and learned Lord.

*LORD DAVEY : I shall not press this Amendment to a Division, but it is necessary that words should be inserted enabling the local authority, when the proprietor has given notice to the local authority that he has abandoned possession, to take possession at once.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of HALSBURY) : Will the noble and learned Lord put down for the Third Reading the words which he would like inserted ?

*LORD DAVEY : I will do so. In the meantime I withdraw my Amendment.

Amendment (by leave of the House) withdrawn.

Clause 4 :—

*LORD DAVEY : My next Amendment is to Clause 4. The first section provides that where the ownership of a house has been acquired by means of an advance under this Act, the person who is the proprietor shall be personally liable for the repayment of any sum due in respect of the advance until he ceases to be proprietor, by reason of a transfer made in accordance with this Act. The object of the clause is to provide that where a mortgager is allowed to transfer his property with a mortgage upon it he shall cease to be personally liable, and it was probably intended that the transferee should become so, but the clause does not say so. I move an addition to the clause providing that in the case of any such transfer the transferee shall become personally liable.

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 38, at end of Sub-section 1 to add 'and in the case of any such transfer the transferee shall become personally liable for the repayment thereof.'"—(*Lord Davey.*)

THE EARL OF SELBORNE : The noble and learned Lord has not noticed an Amendment which was made in the Standing Committee. The point the noble Lord has called attention to has already been provided for in Sub-section 3 of Clause 10, which says that where the ownership of a house is acquired by means of an advance under this Act, the purchaser of the ownership, or, in the case of any devolution or transfer, the person in whom the interest of the purchaser is for the time being vested shall be the proprietor of the house for the purposes of this Act.

Amendment (by leave of the House) withdrawn.

Clause 5 :—

*LORD DAVEY : My next Amendment is a more serious one. It is to leave out Sub-sections 1, 2, 3, and 4 of Clause 5. I confess that the thought has occurred to me more than once that this clause was framed by a person who had not the most elementary acquaintance with the relations between mortgagor and mortgagee. The clause, as at present drafted, will play havoc with those relations. The sub-sections I object to provide that where a man goes out of residence, and the local authority find it necessary, for the preservation of their security, to take possession, but the property is not immediately available for sale, the local authority shall pay to the mortgagor a sum equal to the value of his interest in the house, after deducting therefrom the amount of the advance then remaining unpaid, and any sum due for interest. The effect of this is that a person, finding that trade has left the district, that house property has gone down in value, and that the house is a burden to him, may go out of residence, inform the local authority that he has done so, and, though the property is not available for sale, they have no other course open to them but to take possession, and the fact of taking possession compels the mortgagee, as the price of his doing so, to buy the mortgagor's interest at an arbitration value. I have heard protests against buying other people's property compulsorily by arbitration, but it is still more objectionable that any man, and that man my own debtor,

should compel me to buy his property at an arbitration value as the condition upon which I can realise my security. That is preposterous. Sub-section 2 provides that, where a local authority take possession of a house, they shall pay to the proprietor such sum as may be agreed upon, or a sum equal to the value of the interest in the house at the disposal of the local authority, after deducting therefrom the amount of the advance then remaining unpaid, and any sum due for interest. The value is to be settled by a county court judge as arbitrator, or by a single arbitrator. Unless the local authority afterwards sell the house for more than the principal and interest and costs involved, including the sum paid to the mortgagor, they will be actually out of pocket, and the ratepayers will have to suffer. It also works out unfavourably to the mortgagor himself, because it deprives him of all opportunity of redemption if the house should afterwards improve in value, or if, as may happen, it should be sold at a price which would leave a handsome balance in excess of the value which may have been put upon it at the time of the arbitration. My other objection to this clause is that it is not consistent with itself, because it contemplates that the money is not to be paid to the proprietor until the sale takes place, but, if it is not to be paid till then, why go through a process of expensive arbitration to find out what the mortgagor's share is? Why not wait till the sale takes place, and retain the amount of the advance then remaining unpaid and any sum due for interest, and hand the balance over. The noble Earl will see that this is so if he will look at Sub-section 4, which provides that all costs of, or incidental to, the taking possession, sale, or other disposal of the house (including the costs of the arbitration, if any) incurred by the local authority, before the amount payable to the proprietor has been settled, either by agreement or arbitration, shall be deducted from the amount otherwise payable to the proprietor. I am not aware that any reason has been given why the ordinary provisions as between mortgagor and mortgagee should not exist under this Bill.

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 3, to leave out Sub-sections 1, 2, 3, and 4."—(*Lord Davey*.)

Lord Davey.

THE EARL OF SELBORNE: The case contemplated by this clause is one where, for non-compliance with the statutory conditions, the local authority enters in and either takes possession or insists on an immediate sale. If the case was one of immediate sale, I do not understand that the noble and learned Lord would have urged any objection. The case, however, is one of taking possession. Granted that taking possession is allowed, two schemes are possible. One, no doubt, is such a scheme as that which the noble and learned Lord has just adumbrated, and the other is the scheme which the Bill has followed—that is to say, of bringing to a definite and final determination the relations existing between the local authority and the purchaser. The position of mortgagor and mortgagee was not adopted for reasons which seemed to the promoters of the Bill to be valid reasons. It seemed to them that it would be undesirable to establish this relationship, because it would involve, among other things, the keeping of accounts of every item of receipts and expenditure connected with the house, and would place the local authority under all the disadvantages attaching to mortgagees in possession. The local authority, though they would always prefer to sell than take possession, would not have power to sell, whether a sale was advisable or not. It was considered to be a distinct advantage to avoid such complications, and to determine once and for all the relations to be established between the local authority and the purchaser. What we have to look to, to prevent loss to the local authority, is that they should exercise real care in the advances which they make, and all the provisions in connection with advances by the local authority have been drawn up with a special view of seeing that this matter was attended to, and that no local authority which, from want of experience, would be unable properly to administer this Act, should be entitled to its administration. Therefore, although I am prepared to admit that the scheme of the noble and learned Lord is a good one, yet I must say that we have adopted the alternative scheme and must abide by it.

Amendment (by leave of the House) withdrawn.

Clause 6 amended.

THE EARL OF DENBIGH: My Lords, in accordance with a statement I made

when this Bill was in Committee, I have to move an Amendment to make the Bill properly apply to Ireland. My Amendment takes the form of a new clause to be inserted after Clause 14, and provides that where a local authority make an advance under this Act in Ireland they shall cause the title to the premises in respect of which the advance is made to be registered under the Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Act, 1891, and shall pay the cost of first registration out of the advance.

Amendment moved—

“ In page 12, after Clause 14, to insert new clause :

“(1.) Where a local authority make an advance under this Act in Ireland they shall cause the title to the premises in respect of which the advance is made to be registered under the Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Act, 1891, and shall pay the cost of first registration out of the advance.

(2.) Rules under this Act—

(a) shall adapt that Act to the registration of ownerships under this Act, and provide for the easy transfer of such ownerships.

(b) shall provide for the registration (if required) of a person as the proprietor under this Act with such a possessory or qualified title as is provided under the Land Transfer Acts 1875 and 1897 ; and

(c) shall provide that the fees payable to the Local Registration of Title Office in respect of either first registration of, or any subsequent dealing with, such premises, shall not exceed ten shillings.

(3.) The person appearing on the register for the time being as proprietor shall alone be the proprietor for the purposes of this Act.”—*(The Earl of Denbigh.)*

Amendment agreed to.

Bill to be read 3^a on Thursday next ; and to be printed as amended. (No. 190.)

AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION (IRELAND) BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order).

Clauses 1 to 4 agreed to.

Clause 5 :—

THE EARL OF MAYO: The Amendment which I have to move in this clause

has for its object the insertion of the words “ sea fisheries, fresh-water fisheries.” The clause will then empower the Department to make inquiries, experiments, and research, and collect such information as they may think important for the purposes of agriculture, sea fisheries, fresh-water fisheries, and other rural industries. I have inserted sea fisheries in the hope that by that means inland fisheries will be accepted. The Lord Lieutenant has granted a Viceregal Commission to inquire into our fresh-water fisheries, and if that Commission reports that certain researches have to be made there is no power under this Bill by which they can be made. I believe this clause is considered to be a Treasury clause, and therefore cannot be touched in this House ; but I would point out that our fresh-water fisheries are as important, if not more important, than our sea fisheries. The inland fisheries are classed in this Bill with agriculture, and they will only be considered with a number of other matters which may possibly be regarded as more important, with the result that fresh-water fisheries will receive very little consideration whatever. I hope the noble and learned Lord in charge of the Bill will see his way to help us in this matter. I am not asking for money for our inland fisheries. My only object is to include fresh-water fisheries in the researches of the new Department.

Amendment moved—

“ In page 3, line 32, after ‘ Agriculture ’ to insert ‘ sea fisheries, fresh-water fisheries ’ ”—*(The Earl of Mayo.)*

EARL SPENCER: Before the noble and learned Lord who has charge of the Bill speaks upon this Amendment, I should like to say that I am at a loss to understand what is the necessity for the clause at all. As I understand the Bill, it transfers certain branches of government from the Lord Lieutenant, in whose hands they now are, to this new Department, and as far as I know every Government Department has the power to inquire into matters placed under it. I know full well that in Ireland you have continually to make inquiries on various subjects besides that of agriculture. This clause, as it stands, would allow the new Department to make inquiries into agriculture, but, by the omission of everything else,

they would apparently have no power to make inquiries into other subjects. If it is necessary that power should be given in the Bill for inquiries into agriculture, why should not the new Department be given power to inquire into questions connected with technical education, science and art, fisheries, and so on? Perhaps the noble and learned Lord will answer the question why the clause is necessary at all.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND (Lord ASHBOURNE): This section corresponds verbatim with the section that is applied to England in the English Act, and if the noble Earl opposite will refer to the Definition Clause, which, for the convenience of drafting, is now used to prevent and render unnecessary constant repetition, he will see that the expression "the purposes of agriculture and other rural industries" includes the aiding, improving, and developing of agriculture, horticulture, forestry, dairying, the breeding of horses, cattle, and other live stock and poultry, home and cottage industries, and other industries, including inland fisheries. Inland fisheries are therefore adequately dealt with. I fully recognise the great importance of inland fisheries, but if the Amendment is adopted we should have to reconsider the drafting of the whole Bill. I can assure my noble friend that inland fisheries are adequately dealt with, as a matter of legal construction, and that there is an earnest hope that the topic will not be lost sight of. With regard to that part of my noble friend's Amendment which refers to sea fisheries, I would point out that it is not in the English Act, and that it is a Treasury clause. I wish to amend Clause 30 by inserting, in line 22, after the word "gear," the words "the investigation into the habits of fish and methods of fishing." This will, I think, meet the wishes of the noble Earl.

Amendment withdrawn.

Clause 5 agreed to.

Clauses 6, 7, 8, and 9 agreed to.

Clause 10 :—

*THE EARL OF ARRAN: My Lords, I have drafted an Amendment to provide
Earl Spencer.

that the expression "person" in this clause shall be held to include women.

LORD ASHBOURNE: May I be allowed to point out to the noble Earl that under the Interpretation Act the word "person," unless the contrary is conveyed, will include women, and that, therefore, his Amendment is unnecessary? I am of opinion that there are many branches of technical instruction in which ladies can play a very useful and valuable part, and if it were needed I would welcome the Amendment.

*THE EARL OF ARRAN: After the assurance of the noble and learned Lord I will not move the Amendment standing in my name.

VISCOUNT TEMPLETOWN: My Lords, I beg to move to omit Sub-heads (d) and (e), which provide that the Chambers of Commerce and the Trades Councils of Dublin, Belfast and Cork shall each have a representative on the Board of Technical Instruction. It will be seen at a glance that the Board of Technical Instruction is extremely large, and, I may say, almost unwieldy. I am informed that if all those who are named are appointed the body will consist of nearly forty members. Trades councils are not incorporated bodies, and their legal status is doubtful, and it is possible that many difficulties may arise. I hope Her Majesty's Government will see their way to delete these two sub-heads.

LORD ASHBOURNE: There is no doubt that the Board of Technical Instruction will be adequately and fully manned, and that the elective element will be very largely represented on the Board by, amongst others, the nominees of the county council and the joint committee of councils of urban districts. The trades councils got into the clause on the Standing Committee by a majority of one, and the insertion of the words was opposed by the Chief Secretary and the Attorney-General of Ireland. I believe one of the arguments which had great weight was, that inasmuch as the chambers of commerce represented the employers, the trades councils, who represented the men, should also be allowed to send a representative. Trades councils

have never found a place in legislation before, and as the noble Viscount has moved to omit certain sub-heads, I think the difficulty is met. I accept the Amendment.

EARL SPENCER: I feel some doubt upon this point. This is an exceedingly complicated clause altogether, but it seems to me that if we are to have popular representatives on the Board, it is desirable that such important bodies as the chambers of commerce of large cities like Dublin, Belfast, and Cork should be represented.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of SALISBURY): The difficulty is that these bodies are unknown to the law. We do not know what a chamber of commerce is, and we do not know what a trades council is. There may be two trades councils started in the City of Cork, each of whom may nominate a representative. There would be no one to decide between the two claims, and a legal puzzle would arise. Therefore I think the two sub-heads should be omitted in consequence of the extreme complexity they would introduce into the Bill.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 10, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 11:—

*THE EARL OF ARRAN: I should like to ask the noble and learned Lord who is to define what are the matters of public interest to be discussed by the Council of Agriculture. I presume my right hon. friend the Chief Secretary will be the President of that council, and, if so, will he have the power of deciding as to the matters which may or may not be discussed? If your Lordships will take the trouble to refer to Sub-section (f) of Clause 16 you will see that it is there enacted that such sums as the Department consider reasonable shall be applied for defraying the expenses for travelling and subsistence, when absent from home, of the members of the council of each board established by this Act. It seems to me that Clause 11 gives such a very wide power, that unless there is a discre-

tion given to the President, these discussions may go on *ad infinitum*. The Council of Agriculture will consist of ninety-seven members, and if you allow them each £1 a day for expenses, you will very quickly run through a large sum of money. A power should be given to the President to veto matters which are not proper subjects for discussion.

LORD ASHBOURNE: It is pointed out in the clause that the topics to be discussed are the topics that are dealt with in the Bill—namely, agriculture, technical education, fisheries, and so on. It would be impossible to lay down in the Bill the powers of the chairman, and how he should exercise them in this matter. It must be assumed that the chairman is a man of intelligence, and that the members will be men of common-sense who will act honestly in this matter.

Clause 11 agreed to.

Clauses 12 to 29 agreed to.

Clause 30 amended and agreed to.

Bill, as amended, reported to the House.

LORD ASHBOURNE: I propose to take the Report stage on Thursday, when I hope your Lordships will suspend the Standing Orders, so as to enable me to move the Third Reading.

Standing Committee negatived. The Report of Amendments to be received on Thursday next; and Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered in order to its being dispensed with; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 191.)

ISLE OF MAN (CUSTOMS) BILL.

Read 3^a (according to Order), and passed.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order).

Clause 1:—

THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (VISCOUNT CROSS): I move to leave out the word "separated" on line 17, and to substitute "machine-skimmed," as the words to be

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printed on all receptacles containing condensed, separated, or skimmed milk. I stated the other day that it was only milk separated by a machine-separator that we wished to deal with in this way.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 17, to leave out 'separated,' and insert 'machine-skimmed.'"—
(*Viscount Cross*).

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 7 agreed to.

Clause 8.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

EARL SPENCER: I wish to associate myself with my noble friend the Earl of Kimberley, in the speech which he made last night with regard to this clause. I cannot understand exactly what the clause is intended to do. The Bill does not prohibit the manufacture of margarine, but this clause prevents its improvement, although that can be very materially done, and a large and growing industry depends upon it. I should have thought that by allowing the addition of butter we were encouraging one of the industries of this country. Many people believe this Bill is intended to encourage the sale and production of butter, and, if so, I cannot understand why this clause is inserted restricting the amount of butter fat to be mixed with margarine to 10 per cent. I feel that this is a most improper way of dealing with this question, and one which cannot be justified. If I had any chance of success I should certainly be disposed to move the omission of the clause.

VISCOUNT CROSS: I am afraid there is some misapprehension on this point. The law at present is that margarine, if you do put butter into it, must be sold as margarine, and as margarine alone. Therefore, as margarine only commands a very small price in the market, there is nothing to be gained by a person putting more butter than is necessary into it, because he will get nothing for it. This clause, to a certain extent, rather protects the manufacturer than otherwise. The real object of the clause is to prevent fraud, which, despite the Margarine Act of

Viscount Cross.

1887, is carried on to such an extent that one of the witnesses before the Select Committee stated that 75 per cent. of what is known as margarine is sold with a slight mixture of butter as butter, and obtains butter prices. We agree that margarine is a wholesome and valuable article of food, but the practice undoubtedly has been to put a larger amount of butter in margarine than would be the case if it were to be sold as margarine. The Act of 1887 does not allow it to be sold as a mixture, and the consumer is led to believe that it is butter, and is charged 8d., 10d., and as much as 1s. per pound for it. We want to protect the consumer, who, if he wants margarine, should be able to buy margarine, but who, if he wants butter, should not be cheated to the extent he is at present.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: I do not quite follow the arguments of the noble Viscount. I do not see how, in point of fact, this clause will prevent fraud. What it will prevent is the preparation of a better article of margarine which could be sold as mixed margarine and butter. I do not see why a mixed article of margarine and butter should not be allowed to be made and sold for what it really is, just as various other mixed articles are made and sold for what they really are. If it be the case that the Act of 1887 prohibits the mixture of butter with margarine, I think it is a great pity that Act was not amended, because the object no doubt is that margarine should be sold as margarine, butter as butter, and margarine mixed with butter as such. I remember Mr. Colman coming to me when the original Act was passed. He showed me five pots. He said one contained pure mustard, and the others mustard mixed with various things. The pots containing the mixed mustard were labelled to that effect, and Mr. Colman informed me that he sold very little pure mustard and a considerable quantity of mixed mustard. I do not see why, in the case of butter and margarine, a mixture should not be allowed. You not only by this Act discourage the use of margarine, but you also discourage the use of butter, because the more butter that is mixed with margarine the better it is for the butter producers.

VISCOUNT CROSS: I am afraid the noble Earl has not had time to read the

evidence of the Committee which sat for three years on this subject—

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: I am afraid I have not.

VISCOUNT CROSS: That Committee came unanimously to the conclusion that any such mixture, liable as it is to the promotion of fraud, should be prohibited. In view of that Report, and the manner in which the Bill has been sifted in the other House, I trust your Lordships will accept the conclusion to which I think the Government have wisely come.

Clause 8 agreed to.

Clauses 9 to 13 agreed to.

Amendment moved—

“To insert, after Clause 13, the following new clause: ‘The provisions of Section 3 and Section 4 of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act Amendment Act, 1879 (relating to the taking of samples of milk in course of delivery), shall apply to every other article of food, provided that no samples shall be taken under this section except upon the request or with the consent of the purchaser or consignee.’—*(Viscount Cross.)*

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 14 to 18 agreed to.

Clause 19:—

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Amendment moved—

“In page 8, at the end of the clause, to add the following Sub-section:—‘(6) Every person who, in respect of an article of food or drug sold by him as principal or agent, gives to the purchaser a false warranty in writing, shall be liable on summary conviction, for the first offence, to a fine not exceeding twenty pounds; for the second offence to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds; and for any subsequent offence to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds, unless he proves to the satisfaction of the court that when he gave the warranty he had reason to believe that the statements or descriptions contained therein were true.’—*(Viscount Cross.)*

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 19, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 20 agreed to.

Clause 21:—

Amendment moved—

“In page 8, at end to insert, as a new sub-section: ‘(2) A copy of every such certificate shall be sent to the prosecutor at least three clear days before the return day, and if it be not so sent, the court may, if it thinks fit, adjourn the hearing on such terms as may seem proper.’—*(Viscount Cross.)*

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 21, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 22 agreed to.

Clause 23 amended and agreed to.

Bill reported with Amendments to the House.

Standing Committee negatived. The Report of Amendments to be received on Thursday next; Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered in order to its being dispensed with; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 192.)

ROYAL NIGER COMPANY BILL.

SECOND READING.

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (the Marquess of SALISBURY): My Lords, this Bill merely recites the price to be given for certain articles the Niger Company are to sell. I should not have entered on that question unless anybody had challenged it, but I must say a word in response to a note I have received from Sir George Goldie, who thinks the representations in the Minute of the Foreign Office do not entirely do justice to the company over which he presides. He thinks that the effect was to give an impression that the Niger Company was much more a commercial company and much less a political company than it really was, and he claims that the main object of the founding of the National African Company, which was the original form of it, was political, but for which, Sir George Goldie says, he would have had no connection with it. He recites the preliminary steps which were necessary before the Niger Company was able to enter upon the duties which

it had marked out for itself. It was necessary to dispose of previous occupants of the same territory who had derived their capital and their authority from France. The first was the taking over of the French Equatorial Company, which was arranged before the National Company was founded, in July, 1882, and a still more important purchase in the same year was the Niger business of the Compagnie de Sénégal. At the request of Sir George Goldie I thought it necessary to mention these circumstances, but I think no one doubts for an instant that the main object of the Niger Company was philanthropic and political, and that it was not a mere monetary speculation. They risked their money enormously, a mere accident might have destroyed it, and it was only fair that they should receive a handsome and sufficient price such as Parliament has given them. But I think we cannot part with them without recognising the enormous benefit which the civilising of those countries has received from their exertions, exertions which did a work that no mere political reform could have done. They succeeded in reserving for England influence over the vast territory which represents the Niger Company—a territory mainly on the left side of the Niger, but also a considerable portion of it on the right—an enormous territory which we believe is full of wealth, and full of inhabitants, which is being gradually brought under the civilising influence of English government, and which I have no doubt there is every prospect in the future will yield a rich harvest to the British Empire. But for the Niger Company, much, if not all, of this territory would have passed under another flag, and certainly, even if that had not taken place, the advance that we have made in stopping inter-tribal wars, in arresting the slave-raiding, which is such a fearful curse in that country, and in diminishing the liquor traffic from which so many evils are derived—all these things, I believe, we owe to the efforts of the Niger Company. Though it is necessary for obvious reasons, since our agreement, that these territories should pass under the direct control of the Crown, we cannot sanction that great step without expressing our deep gratitude and high esteem for the adventurers and patriots to whose efforts the preparation of this territory is due.

The Marquess of Salisbury.

“Moved that the Bill be now read 2^a.”
—(*The Marquess of Salisbury.*)

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: My Lords, I should not like to let the Bill pass without expressing my strong agreement with all that has been said by the noble Marquess. There cannot be a doubt that the Empire owes a great debt of gratitude to those who directed the affairs of the Niger Company. Their enterprise was one of great difficulty, involving great dangers, requiring great prudence and tact in dealing not only with the mere savage tribes on the coast, but also with organised and powerful Empires further north. They had also to deal with companies which had previously established themselves on the Niger—foreign companies, the presence of which might have made it impossible for that whole huge territory to have passed exclusively, as it now will do, under the control of the British Crown. In all these matters the Niger Company deserve our gratitude, and I entirely agree with Sir George Goldie in his claim that they were not a mere commercial company. I am sure my lamented friend Lord Aberdare, who took a large share in the proceedings of the company, would not have thought of associating himself with it if he had not looked upon it as a political enterprise. There is no doubt that it was also a commercial enterprise, but the result has been to establish our authority there, and, as the noble Marquess has truly said, to open out possibilities of great trade hereafter, and to exercise a most salutary influence over some of the most important and interesting races throughout that particular part of Africa.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read 2^a (according to Order); and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday next.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING (CLAUSES) BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order).

Bill reported without Amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.
(The Earl of MORLEY): My Lords, during the progress of this Bill through the House of Commons it was made to

apply, quite rightly in my humble opinion, to Private Acts as well as to Special Orders, but there is the difficulty that it is quite right that it should be imperative to insert in every Private Order what is called the Nuisance Clause—that is the clause that provides that the undertakers shall not be exonerated in respect of any nuisance. That is done because in the Orders no power of taking land compulsorily is given, and it is quite right that where land is taken by agreement the proviso against a nuisance should be inserted always. That is according to the precedent that prevails in regard to Private Bills as in all other cases. But, my Lords, according to the wording of this Bill, as it now is, it is practically imperative to incorporate in every Private Bill this Nuisance Clause. Now I think it is quite clear that that ought to depend upon the facts in each individual case. Where land is taken compulsorily that clause never is, and probably never ought to be, inserted. At any rate, the insertion of that clause would be contrary to the Report of the Joint Committee which was delivered to your Lordships' House some time ago. I merely wish to mention this matter. I know the noble Lord who is in charge of the Bill does not wish to have it returned to the Commons amended, and therefore I thought it necessary to make these remarks to show that in dealing with Private Bills the opponents should not be entitled to take it as an argument for the necessary insertion of this clause into every Private Bill. I think my noble friend will agree with what I have said upon this point, and possibly if he does so it would be of advantage that he should confirm that opinion.

THE EARL OF DUDLEY: I am very glad that my noble friend has drawn attention to this point, because I think it will tend to simplify matters when these special Acts are referred to Committees, and will prevent any misunderstanding with regard to the inclusion in this Bill of what is known as the Nuisance Clause. Of course, the difficulty only applies really to special Acts, because in the case of Provisional Orders the Board of Trade, no doubt, will make the necessary omissions, and in the case of special Acts we have thought that the Committee should have reserved the same power of omission as the Board of Trade have in the case of

Provisional Orders. The alternative would have been to omit altogether the Nuisance Clause; but as the majority of these special Acts contain it, it was thought to be more advisable to insert it in the Bill, giving to the Committee the power to make the omission in cases where the Bills did not require the insertion of the clause.

Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^a on Thursday next.

IMPROVEMENT OF LAND BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order); Amendments made; Standing Committee negatived; The Report of Amendments to be received on Thursday next; and Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered in order to its being dispensed with.

SEATS FOR SHOP ASSISTANTS BILL.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: My Lords, when the Seats for Shop Assistants Bill was before your Lordships' House, I made a statement which was challenged by my noble friend the Duke of Devonshire that led to a little friendly difference, and a catechismal conversation between us. I should like to point out for a moment what led to my making the statement. My noble friend the Prime Minister had very strongly opposed the Bill, and his main argument on that occasion was that the result of the Bill would be that shop girls would not be employed, and that they would be superseded by the weaker sex—man. That might or might not be the case. From my experience of legislation of this description, I believe that that was a very sound argument on the part of my noble friend, and he certainly gave very pregnant reasons and good *data* for the opinion which he then expressed. The tendency, I venture to think, of all this excessive humanitarian legislation—what is called goody-goody legislation—is to overleap itself and to do no good but more often harm to trade and commerce, and to do injury to those whom it is intended to benefit, either as regards wages or as regards employment. But

be that as it may, I made a statement which I will now repeat to your Lordships from the Report in *The Parliamentary Debates* :

"I contend that legislation of this kind is a degradation of Parliament, and it is a matter of great regret that it should have been treated in the way it has been by your Lordships. It will prove more hurtful than useful. What has been the result of the Workmen's Compensation Bill? Why, at the Barrow Works—I see the noble Duke present—no man is admitted over fifty years of age.

"THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: That is not a fact.

"THE EARL OF WEMYSS: Then my noble friend should take care that no official paper is issued stating that no man is received over fifty. Has not the noble Duke seen it?

"THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Yes; I have seen it. Have you got the paper?

"THE EARL OF WEMYSS: I have read it.

"THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Have you got the paper?

"THE EARL OF WEMYSS: No; not in my pocket.

"THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: That is not the effect of the bill."

I think he meant "the effect of the paper." That was what passed; that is what I call this friendly catechismal conversation that took place between my noble friend and myself. I had not the paper in my pocket or even at home, but I have now got what I hope your Lordships will think is a sufficient justification of the statement I then made. In the first place I will read to your Lordships this extract from the *Liberty Review* of the 15th December, 1898:—

"Our prediction with regard to aged workmen has been fulfilled. The newspapers report that they have received from industries all over the country accounts of the eviction of, or refusal to employ, old workers who, in the opinion of the masters, expose them unduly to the risk of accidents, and, therefore, compensation. The *Manchester Guardian* of the 6th inst. contained the following paragraph:—'The Barrow Hematite Steel Company have issued an order that in future persons defective in limbs, sight, or hearing, or who are over fifty years of age, are not to be engaged by the company. The order does not apply to men at present employed in the works.'

Now, my Lords, that extract from the *Manchester Guardian* is, of course, second-hand, and on such a question as this your Lordships would expect that I should

The Earl of Wemyss.

give you something more direct—something coming if possible from the fountain head. I have here a paper which my noble friend no doubt takes in; it is the *Iron and Coal Trades Review*, a well-known journal, which represents the views of employers and owners in those trades. Under the head of "Work and Wages: Iron and Steel Work" in the *Iron and Coal Trades Review* of the 9th December, 1898, I find this:—

"The employes —"

My Lords, I hate that word; I do not know why we should take hold of a French word when we have the good English word "employed," which would answer every purpose. I cannot help protesting against the growing tendency there seems to be to discard good English in favour of doubtful French. For instance, there is the hotel with which my noble friend, I think, is connected, which is called not "The Cecil Hotel," but "The Hotel Cecil." Similarly we have "The Hotel Métropole" instead of the "Metropolitan Hotel."

"The employes of the Barrow Hematite Steel Company have received the following circular:—'From this date forward please note that no men are to be engaged who are known to have any defects, such as the loss of a limb, defective sight or hearing. Further, no men are to be engaged in any department who are older than 50 years of age. Any men already in the employ of the company in excess of this age may be retained, but in case of their leaving they are not to be re-engaged. In the event of anyone being injured and receiving compensation from the company for same he is not to be re-engaged without first having the approval of the general manager.'"

Every employee of my noble friend had that document sent to him. Your Lordships will notice that "the approval of the general manager" only refers to this latter part. The sentence in which the phrase occurs is—

"In the event of anyone being injured and receiving compensation from the company for same, he is not to be re-engaged without first having the approval of the general manager."

"The approval of the general manager" has nothing to do with these men who asked to be employed and were not taken on. That, my Lords, is my justification for the statement which I made to your Lordships on the Second Reading of this Bill. I said:

"What has been the result of the Workmen's Compensation Bill? Why, at the

Barrow Works—I see the noble Duke present—no man is admitted over fifty years of age.”

I hope I have shown your Lordships that the statement that I then made was not made without good reason and authority. One word more. It may interest your Lordships to know what has been the fate in another place of this Bill. The Bill which your Lordships in the first instance kicked out without a word being said in favour of it was then carried by a majority of three to one. On both occasions the Prime Minister, with his strong good sense, did what he could to throw out the Bill, and then the Bill went to another place amended. If the Bill had been treated in the ordinary course as other private Members' Bills are, it would have had no chance whatever; it was, I will not say as dead as Julius Cæsar, but it was as dead as any other defunct Bill. But what has happened? I am told that the Government in another place have adopted this Bill as a Government Bill, and therefore any attempt to stop it will be vain. Now the Leader in the other House is the nephew of my noble friend. We have heard of “wicked uncles,” but it seems a strange thing that this “wicked nephew” should take this Bill, which is so opposed by his uncle, and make it a Government measure in the House of Commons. I need not further detain your Lordships. I merely got up to say that I did not speak without book when I said that at the works of my noble friend no man was admitted over fifty years of age.

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE): My Lords, I have to apologise to my noble friend for the somewhat abrupt interruption which I introduced the other day in the course of his speech upon the Seats for Shop Assistants Bill. My noble friend introduced—as I thought, rather irrelevantly—into his speech on that occasion a reference to the management of the Barrow Iron and Steel Works, and, as I understood, asserted that in consequence of the passing of the Workmen's Compensation Act no man was in future to be employed in those works who was over the age of fifty years.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: No man was to be taken on.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I understood my noble friend to say that no man was to be employed.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: That is to say, taken in for employment.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I was perfectly aware of the circular to which my noble friend has referred, and I thought that I had it more accurately in my recollection than it turns out that I had. When I interrupted my noble friend, I was under the impression that the provision to which he has referred, contained at the end of the circular, that men who had been injured and received compensation from the company should not be re-engaged without first having the approval of the general manager, extended to the whole of the circular. I find, however, that that was an inaccurate impression, and that the directions were positive that men should not be engaged for the first time over the age of fifty years. That, however, did not justify the statement which I understood my noble friend to make, that men were in future not to be employed in those works over the age of fifty.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: I did not mean that.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I should like to say one word as to the origin of this circular. It was issued by the general manager, not, as my noble friend says, to every man in the works, but it was a confidential circular, issued to the foremen in charge of the works, and issued by the general manager on his own responsibility, without the knowledge of the board. When attention was called to it I asked for an explanation of the reason which had induced this circular to be issued, and whether it had any connection with the passing of the Workmen's Compensation Act. This is a portion of the reply which I received from the general manager:

“As a matter of fact, the circular arose through my having noticed that fresh hands were being engaged in the works who were not at all fit to be inside a steel works at all, and it appeared to me that some distinct regulation on the subject was necessary. We already have in the works a large number of old men, many of whom have no doubt grown old in the service of the company, and who are more or

less incapacitated from employment in such a works as ours. We have also many men at work who have lost a limb, and both classes run a much greater risk of accident than is run by the others. The circular, however, distinctly states that there is no intention that these men should be discharged, neither is it intended that a man should be discharged simply because he may have passed the limit of fifty years while in the service of the company. The circular deals almost entirely with the engagement of fresh hands. Having regard to the nature of the employment, and to the fact that we have already a large number of men who are scarcely fit for work, I certainly think that there is no necessity to start additional men, who either from age or infirmity are incapacitated for the work required of them."

My Lords, I acknowledge that if the Board had been consulted before this circular was issued, taking into consideration the representations that had been made on the subject of the Workmen's Compensation Act, I might have thought that the time at all events was inopportune for issuing it. I am unable, however, to say that the manager was not perfectly within his right in issuing such a circular regulating the employment of men in such a way as in his judgment might conduce to the safety of the others employed in work of a critical and difficult character. My noble friend appears to think that the issue of such a circular as this is a condemnation of the policy of the Workmen's Compensation Act. I do not look upon it at all from that point of view. If, as I do not know that it was, the Workmen's Compensation Act was, in the mind of the general manager, the cause of issuing this circular, it might go very far to prove that the Workmen's Compensation Act has had a very excellent effect. There can be no doubt that the presence of men in a work of this sort incapacitated either by age or any infirmity is a source of danger not only to themselves but to others, and if the additional liability which has been cast on the company by the Workmen's Compensation Act has induced them to look more closely than they had previously thought necessary into the best means of preventing accidents I cannot see that any injurious effect can be attributed to the operation of that Act. That is the origin of this circular, which was issued some months ago. I may add that I have heard only to-day from the manager that no men have been discharged from the works on account of age, and that the

The Duke of Devonshire.

relations with the workmen are of the most friendly and cordial character.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS : I have only to say as regards the question whether this Act be or be not beneficial to the workmen, that I will leave it to the workmen, who have not left my noble friend's works at the age of fifty, to settle the question between themselves, and the manager, and my noble friend.

BATHS AND WASHHOUSES ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Brought from the Commons ; read 1^a, and to be printed. (No. 193.)

LAND TAX COMMISSIONERS' NAMES BILL.

Brought from the Commons ; read 1^a ; to be printed ; and to be read 2^a on Thursday next. — (*The Marquess of Salisbury.*) (No. 194.)

METROPOLITAN POLICE BILL.

Brought from the Commons ; Read 1^a ; to be printed ; and to be read 2^a on Thursday next (*The Lord Belper*) ; and Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered in order to its being dispensed with. (No. 195.)

NAVAL WORKS BILL.

Brought from the Commons ; Read 1^a ; to be printed ; and to be read 2^a on Thursday next. — (*The Duke of Marlborough.*) (No. 196.)

PATRIOTIC FUND BILL (No. 197).

RESERVE FORCES BILL (No. 198).

Brought from the Commons ; read 1^a ; to be printed ; and to be read 2^a on Thursday next. — (*The Marquess of Lansdowne.*)

TELEGRAPHS (TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION) BILL.

Brought from the Commons ; read 1^a ; to be printed ; and to be read 2^a on Thursday next. — (*The Duke of Norfolk.*) (No. 199.)

DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL.

Returned from the Commons with several of the Amendments made by the Lords agreed to ; several agreed to with Amendments ; and several disagreed to, with reasons for such disagreement, and

with consequential Amendments to the Bill. The said Amendments and reasons to be printed, and to be considered on Thursday next. (No. 200.)

MILITARY WORKS BILL.

Brought from the Commons ; read 1^a ; to be printed ; and to be read 2^a on Thursday next.—(*The Marquess of Lansdowne.*) (No. 201.)

House adjourned at a quarter past seven o'clock, to Thursday next, one o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 1st August 1899.

ROYAL ASSENT.

Message to attend the Lords Commissioners.

The House went ; and, being returned,

Mr. SPEAKER reported the Royal Assent to a number of Bills. (See first item in House of Lords Report this day ; *ante*, page 965.)

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

DUBLIN CORPORATION (MARKETS) BILL.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (GENERAL POWERS) BILL.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (MONEY) BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL.

Lords Amendments considered.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) : I beg to move that the House do disagree with the Lords Amendments to this Bill, with the exception of certain useful agreed clauses. This Bill was sent up to the House of Lords by an unprecedented majority of 161—a majority composed of all parties and sections of the House. It was unanimously read in the other House a second time, and was sent to be considered by a Committee presided over by the Duke of Northumberland. The course taken by the Peers who composed that Com-

mittee was to undo the work of this House and set aside its decision, and to provide that the five townships included within the area of Dublin should be reduced to one—that one being the smallest and poorest and least desirable of the entire area. At this stage of the session, I hardly think it would be fair to the House to take up very much time in again going into the question which was discussed here some three or four weeks ago. This House arrived at a verdict, after consideration by one of its Committees, by an enormous majority, and without introducing any political topic. I think this House is entitled to say that its work ought not to be undone by five gentlemen, whether they be Peers or not, and it is upon that that the whole question turns. I do not intend to say one word disrespectful to the conclusions that those gentlemen arrived at, or to the authority of their body ; but a verdict of the House of Commons should not be upset, when they have taken a position of that kind, by a Committee of the House of Lords. One word upon the general topic. Let the House remember that the Dublin Corporation are only pursuing the decision of a Royal Commission, which was composed of officials and Conservative gentlemen, some twenty years ago. The Duke of Northumberland laid it down in the Committee that if the Dublin Corporation ventured to come again to the House to obtain the judgment of that House, they would do so at the peril of costs being given against them. This was a remarkable suggestion to come from the noble Peer, because, if a single Irish municipality ventures to come to Parliament for legislation, it is not enough that it will have to conduct its proceedings in a distant country and under difficult conditions ; but, having won in the House of Commons, it could only face the House of Lords by being obliged to run the risk of paying the costs. That to some extent showed a most regrettable spirit. One word more and I shall have done. The decision of the Committee amounts to this—that Dublin for all time must lie within the canals, the real, practical, wealthy portion of the city being excluded from its jurisdiction. The House of Lords has actually decided that the Archbishop of Dublin is not to reside in his own city. They have decided that the City of Dublin Hospital is not to be brought within the limits of

the City of Dublin. When I mention these two things—that Drumcondra, where the Archbishop's residence is, is to be made a foreign area, and that the area which contains the City of Dublin Hospital (Pembroke) is not to be within the City of Dublin—I think I have said enough to show the remarkable decision they have arrived at; while, upon the other hand, they have brought the district of Chapelizod, which is probably the most distant and foreign area of Dublin, within the city. I simply take my stand upon this. This House, irrespective of politics or any other consideration, except sanitation and good government, arrived at a decision. We have been asked to rely upon the fair-play of the House of Commons, and, relying upon that fair-play, the great body of Irish Members have not come over. I therefore beg to move that this House disagrees with the Lords on this Amendment.

Amendment in Preamble, page 2, line 3, to leave out "the townships hereinafter mentioned (other than the township of Rathmines and Rathgar)," and insert "township of New Kilmainham," the first Amendment, read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth disagree with the Lords in the said Amendment."—(*Mr. T. M. Healy*).

MR. CARSON (Dublin University): When this Bill was before the House on a previous occasion, I practically moved its rejection by moving to postpone the consideration of the Report of the Select Committee. I would now wish to put before the House how the case really stands. I do not think there is any good reason for disagreeing with the decision of the House of Lords. The Bill, which is a very comprehensive one, proposed to abolish a number of townships. It was referred to a Committee of the House, and of the four members of the Committee two voted for it, and two against, and the Bill was only carried by the exercise of the Chairman's second vote. It happened that one of the members favourable to the Preamble was in the chair, and he carried the day; but if one of the two members who voted against the Preamble had been in that position the Bill would have been thrown

out. The Bill then came before this House, and the action of the Committee was upheld, because Members always support the decision of the Committee they appoint, and very properly and wisely. The argument used is that the Committee heard the evidence, and that the House has not the material on which to form a judgment. The Bill then went to a Committee of the House of Lords, which held that the Preamble was not proved. Sir, I do not think that this is such an extreme case as the hon. and learned Member represented to the House. The members of the Committee of this House were equally divided, and the Lords Committee, having heard evidence for several days, decided to reject the Bill—not a very extraordinary course to pursue, considering it would have been thrown out by the Committee of this House but for the fact I have stated. How does the case now stand? Two Committees have heard the evidence. One of them was equally divided, and the other, as far as we know, was unanimous that the Preamble was not proved. It is now proposed, under these circumstances, to disagree with the Lords Amendments, which, if carried, can only have the effect of the Bill being lost altogether. If the promoters wish to have the Bill wrecked they would be within their right, but I would point out that it increases the area of the City of Dublin by more than 2,000 acres. One of the complaints of the promoters was that they had no room in the city for housing the working classes, and that they wanted space in which to erect buildings. That complaint has been met by an agreement between the Lords Committee and the county authorities, and a large area has been included in the Bill. One other argument put forward by the Corporation was that they required a revaluation of the city, which has not been revalued for many years. The Bill, as it stands, provides for this revaluation, and it is estimated it will bring in an additional revenue of £50,000 a year to the Corporation. The effect of disagreeing with the Lords Amendments will be to take away the benefit from the Corporation and the City of Dublin, because it will not now be possible to refer this Bill back to the Lords Committee. This is not a case of the Lords striking out certain clauses: it is a case of finding the

Mr. T. M. Healy.

Preamble not proved. The very important clauses with reference to how the townships are to be represented in the Corporation has never been before the Select Committee or the House of Lords at all, and for my part, I cannot see how the Committee, particularly at this stage of the session, can possibly be asked to go through these clauses and to bring back counsel and witnesses and other parties. As I have pointed out, the result of rejecting the Lords Amendments will be, that this Bill, which has cost an immense sum of money, and which will, in its present form, largely increase the area of the city, and enable re-valuation to be carried out and the revenue of the Corporation to be considerably augmented, will be almost inevitably lost.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.): As the representative of three of the townships—Clontarf, Kilmainham, and Drumcondra—originally proposed to be included in this Bill, it would be cowardly on my part if I did not express entire concurrence in the motion made by the hon. and learned Member for North Louth. Because of the fact that I was the representative of these three townships, I did not back the Bill of the Corporation, and I thought that these townships ought to be allowed an opportunity of laying their case before the Committee of the House of Commons. But having made their case, and certain modifications in the Bill having been agreed to by the Corporation, I came to the conclusion that it would be dishonest on my part, even as the representative of these townships, if I did not express my conviction, in public, that the Bill was a just Bill, and that to throw it out would be an act of injustice. The speech of the right hon. Gentleman who has just sat down has been answered already by the vote of the House. The greater part of his speech was delivered on a previous occasion; but, notwithstanding that fact, a majority of 162 supported the opposite view. He has made one point which I think he would not have made if he had known all the facts. He pointed out that the Committee of this House, which investigated this Bill, carried it only by the casting vote of the Chairman. Sir, something like the very same thing occurred in the House of Lords. There the Committee were divided—two on each side, and the Chairman gave his casting vote. And thus it comes about that the point the hon.

and learned Gentleman made most certainly makes as much for us as for him. He also says there would be no time to consider the Amendments of the House of Lords. That is a futile pretext for refusing to pass this Bill. We all know that when the Preamble of a Bill is passed, the consideration of the clauses is agreed to within a remarkably short space of time. I myself have had experiences, as chairman on Railway and Canal Bills, of the procedure in this respect. The whole fight is over the principle, or Preamble of the Bill. As soon as the Preamble is proved, the opponents either take no further interest in the measure, or come to the promoters in a friendly way and settle any disputes that exist. And that is precisely what would follow in this case if the House of Lords had grace enough—which I hope they will have—to pass the Preamble of the Bill. What would happen would be that the promoters would have their clauses ready, and the opponents of the Bill would see that it was futile to resist any longer. The very expense that would be incurred in prolonging the struggle would deter them. In a day or two the whole thing would be adequately considered. That second argument, therefore, falls to the ground. I have said this Bill is a just Bill. I must candidly say that, even without the Amendments accepted by the Corporation, and the modifications as to the exemptions of certain townships, if I were to express exactly what was in my mind, I believe that the Bill was a just one. It is intolerable, to my mind, that merchants and professional men and other people in the City of Dublin, who make their living in the city, and would not live in the townships if they had not business in the city—who come daily to the city and make use of all the city's advantages, and go out again to their pleasant villas in the suburbs—it is intolerable that they should be able to do this without being compelled to pay a single sixpence towards the cost of the city administration. I say it is a shame, and further, that it is selfish in the highest degree. These people know well that a great part, if not most of the misery and drunkenness and demoralisation that exist in the City of Dublin—as in all great cities, more or less—is produced by the terrible condition of the houses in which the majority of the poor people live. This shoddy aristocracy, which lives in the

suburbs and refuses to pay any contribution towards the expenses of the city, should have their eye to those considerations; but instead of that, they prefer that the children of the city should grow up amidst sights enough to demoralise any community; they prefer that the people should continue to live and to be housed in conditions which drive them to drink; they prefer to know nothing of the miseries of the poor, but only to live among green parks and waving trees. I am bound to add that in Dublin the opinion and the feeling is, that the decision of the House of Lords has been arrived at for political reasons. It is a very curious thing that they have agreed to include in the City of Dublin the one township which is Nationalist at present in its municipal representation, although that is the one township for which a case might be made for exclusion. Kilmainham is a township which has grown up independently of Dublin. Its citizens are people who live by the great railway works carried on in the neighbourhood, and who do not need, and in fact never do, come into the City of Dublin. From that point of view, to subject these people to the same taxation as the city is unjust; and yet that is the township of all the others which the House of Lords have determined to include in the City of Dublin. My conviction is that it is done because there are there only Nationalists in the district council. I hope that even Conservative Members will agree that an injustice has been done in this matter, and that those people who live in the other townships, like Moore's tufthunter, would rather be "genteelly damned beside a duke than saved in vulgar company." But they are the people who ought to be forced to come into the City of Dublin, and forced to contribute to its needs, and do justice to the suffering portion of the community of Dublin.

SIR EDWARD CLARKE (Plymouth): The observations which the hon. Gentleman has just made might lead to a very prolonged and angry Debate; because I do not know why he should describe certain persons in the City of Dublin as being a shoddy aristocracy, or why he should suggest that there are political reasons for the action taken in another place. Of course, if the Debate is to deal with matters of that kind, it may take up a considerable time. These are considerations, however,

Mr. Clancy.

I have nothing to do with. If it were a question of a controversy between the Dublin Corporation and the townships alone, I should feel myself unqualified to enter into any such discussion. But there is a rather more important question here, and one on which I hold that Her Majesty's Government should accept the decision of the House of Lords, and refuse to start this Bill again on a somewhat perilous course in the House of Lords. It is for this reason: it appears to me that a very sound rule of the House of Commons is being technically observed, but in substance disregarded. That sound rule, which was acted upon when the Bill was before the House on a former occasion, is that where a Committee has decided in favour of a certain course, the House will not take upon itself to review the proceedings of the Committee. Therefore, a large number of Members who were not at all satisfied with the decision of the Select Committee, nevertheless, having regard to that very useful rule, accepted the decision of the Committee, and sent the Bill to the other House. But it is perfectly clear that when that rule is observed in a merely technical sense, as in the present case—because the Committee were equally divided, and it was only the accident of one member instead of another being in the Chair which gave the predominance of one in the decision—and when the House sends the Bill forward to the other House for consideration; and when the other House has considered it and has decided against it, in substance, then the House of Commons ought to accept the decision of the House of Lords. There has been, practically, an equal division in this House, and on reference to the other House, that House has decided in favour of a certain course—

An hon. MEMBER: So were the House of Lords Committee equally divided.

SIR EDWARD CLARKE: I hope that Her Majesty's Government, having regard to the time at which the matter is being discussed, will accept that decision and not forward the Bill again to the House of Lords. It has been said that the promoters of the Bill would rather lose it than accept the decision of the House of Lords. That appears to me a very unreasonable position indeed. The Bill, as passed by the House of Lords, will do a very great deal indeed to carry out

the objects of those who propose the Bill. ["No, no."] Oh, yes. I do not think it is possible that the Bill does not do a great deal to forward the wishes of those who introduced it into this House. They may, in another session, endeavour to extend to the other townships that government of the Dublin Corporation which those townships do not wish at present to have, but which it is suggested it would be advantageous for them to have. Surely, at this time of the session, it would be ridiculous that this Bill should lapse, or to ask that the House of Lords should reconstitute a Select Committee. The promoters should come to some agreement on this matter. In substance, it seems to me that the rule which has always governed the action of this House will be observed if we now agree to the decision of the House of Lords, leaving it to the promoters to come again in another session for what they desire.

*MR. JOHNSON-FERGUSON (Leicester, Loughborough): I have great hesitation in again trespassing on the time of the House; but after the remarks the House has just listened to, I can hardly let the matter pass without answering some of the statements made. The statement of my hon. friend, the mover of this motion, that the people of Dublin would rather lose the Bill altogether than that it should pass in its present form, has been challenged; but after listening to the arguments brought forward, both for and against this measure, I entirely agree with what my hon. friend said. When this Bill left this House, the Committee had proposed to add to Dublin five townships and some part of the county, and practically placing a ring, a mile and a-half wide, round the city from the sea on the south, round to the sea on the north. The argument in support of that proposal was that the population of those townships was practically an overflow of the City of Dublin, that they were citizens of Dublin in everything but the duties and burdens of citizenship, who had gone to live in the suburbs, while they came into the city to earn their livelihood; and the few who were unconnected with the city had come there to enjoy the advantages of living near the city. Another argument was that important sanitary works and improvements were to be carried out in Dublin, and that, owing to

the absence of the class that lived in the suburbs, the burden which would fall on those who remained in Dublin would be so great as to preclude those improvements being carried out. A third argument was that several improvements required to be carried out in the townships themselves, which could be more efficiently and economically carried out as part of the scheme of Greater Dublin. The Amendment of the other House practically cuts out the four of these townships which contain the largest area and rateable value, and leaves nothing to be added to Dublin but the township of New Kilmainham, with an infinitesimal population and value, so that Dublin would be in no better position to carry out these great reforms than it is at present. Under all these circumstances, I think it would be a deplorable thing for us to accept this Amendment.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): After what has fallen from the hon. Member who has just sat down, and the hon. Member for Plymouth, it is only fair for me to say that when this Bill was before the House for Third Reading, the Government considered the attitude which they ought to adopt, and we decided that our position should be one of strict neutrality. To that course we intend to adhere, and we have no intention of bringing any pressure to bear on any of our followers.

SIR H. H. FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): The hon. Member for Plymouth appears to be rather of the opinion that this House was equally divided upon this matter, and that there was some doubt as to the proper course to be pursued; that it was practically the desire of the House that the matter should be sent to another place to be dealt with, in order that the differences in regard to it might be got rid of. But this is a matter which must be discussed on its merits, and the fact that the Government put no pressure on their own Party on this occasion, shows that they are in favour of the Bill as it stands. This is a question of the application of principles with which the House of Commons is familiar, and those Members who wish to see Ireland treated in all respects as England is treated, must vote against the Lords Amendment. No one can doubt what would be the result of any attempt to.

resist the enlargement of a large English borough. The House has heard the whole case and decided upon it, and I contend it is the duty of the House to adhere to that decision.

*MR. WANKLYN (Bradford, Central) : I should not have intervened in this Debate, but for the fact that the constituency which I represent holds the belief, that where there are large populations contiguous to large towns they ought to be united for the purpose of municipal government. If a city is to deal effectively with such questions as the housing of the poor, which is the most difficult problem of the day, it must have the control of the whole of the outlying districts. How is this question of the housing to be dealt with in our great cities? We all know that there is only one solution—you must get the people out into the suburbs. The congestion is not so much a question of rent as of elbow room, and you have got to get these people out into the suburbs of these cities where they can enjoy fresher air, fresher water, more sunshine, and greater facilities for distraction. It is in that way that hon. Gentlemen opposite will solve the temperance question. Then consider the injustice of detachment. You have a population which has come together for a common object, with common institutions, such as hospitals, markets, libraries and banks; and is it equitable that the rich should go out and live in the suburbs, leaving the poor behind to pay an undue proportion of the rates? Further then is the question of over-lapping, and how can Dublin and the district expect to have an effective system of drainage with eight separate Drainage Authorities, and the same observation applies to gas, water, tramways, and electricity. After a con-

siderable study of this question, I submit that in all cases of common interest it is imperative that the city should retain the control of the outlying districts. We have been able, in Bradford, to secure, with their consent, five out of the eight outlying districts, but in the case of Southampton, Bristol, Leamington, and Cheltenham, the control of the outlying districts was obtained without their consent. It stands to reason that in measures of this kind there will be officials and interested parties who will oppose. In a great majority of the cases for inclusion the cities have had to come to Parliament in order to secure the control of the outlying districts, and in cases where detachment has been allowed it has always been regretted. It would be unbecoming on my part to detain the House, but I do ask why was this scheme not carried out in 1880, after the finding of the Royal Commission? For this one reason alone—the political equation had to be solved. But are we on this side of the House, who supported the Local Government Bill last year, to allow the political equation to block the way any longer? It seems to me that we cannot do so with any degree of consistency. Thanks to the constructive statesmanship of the Leader of the House I think that happier days are in store for Ireland, and I can only say that I shall vote with hon. Gentlemen opposite on this matter, for the reasons (1) that I believe the days of differentiation are over in Ireland, and (2) that I am convinced that all cities should be allowed to possess the control of their outlying districts in justice to the poor of this population.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 160; Noes, 52. (Division List, No. 322.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold, Alfred
Arrol, Sir William
Atherley-Jones, L.
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Bainbridge, Emerson
Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. B. (Clackinn.)
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bhowaggee, Sir M. M.
Billson, Alfred
Blake, Edward

Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Bullard, Sir Harry
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Sir Chas. (Glasgow)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carew, James Laurence
Carvill, Patrick G. Hamilton
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)

Charrington, Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard H.
Crilly, Daniel
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
Dalziel, James Henry
Dewar, Arthur
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.

Sir H. H. Fowler.

Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-Drucker, A.
 Farrell, Thomas J. (Kerry, S.)
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward Field, William (Dublin)
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fletcher, Sir Henry
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Fox, Dr. Joseph Francis
 Fry, Lewis
 Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. John
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, George J. (Sussex)
 Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert Wm.
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-Healy, T. M. (N. Louth)
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Hedderwick, Thos. Chas. H.
 Hogan, James Francis
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Howard, Joseph
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Johnson-Ferguson, Jabez Edw.
 Joicey, Sir James
 Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hn. Sir U.
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir J. H.
 Kilbride, Denis
 Knowles, Lees
 Labouchere, Henry
 Langley, Batty

Laurie, Lieut-General
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liver'l)
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Lowther, Rt. Hn. J.W. (Cumb'land)
 Macaleese, Daniel
 Macdonna, John Cumming
 M'Donnell, Dr. M. A. (Queen's C)
 Maclure, Sir John William
 M'Crae, George
 M'Dermott, Patrick
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Killop, James
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred
 Maden, John Henry
 Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
 Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
 Molloy, Bernard Charles
 Monk, Charles James
 Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
 O'Connor, J. (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 O'Malley, William
 Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
 Perks, Robert William
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Power, Patrick Joseph

Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Purvis, Robert
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Runciman, Walter
 Russell, T. W. (Tyronne)
 Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
 Spicer, Albert
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
 Ure, Alexander
 Wallace, Robert
 Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. H.
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
 Williams, J. Carvell (Notts.)
 Williams, J. Powell. (Birm.)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
 Woods, Samuel
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Mr. Patrick O'Brien and
 Mr. Duncombe.

NOES.

Allsopp, Hon. George
 Anstruther, H. T.
 Balcarres, Lord
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
 Bethell, Commander
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
 Brassey, Albert
 Brookfield, A. Montagu
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Clarke, Sir Edw. (Plymouth)
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Curzon, Viscount
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Drage, Geoffrey
 Fisher, William Hayes

Fison, Frederick William
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
 Halsey, Thomas Frederick
 Hermon-Hodge, Robert Trotter
 Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
 Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Corn)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks)
 Lecky, Rt. Hon. Wm. Edw. H.
 Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
 Lubbock, Rt. Hn. Sir John
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander

Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Percy, Earl
 Pilkington, R. (Lancs. Newton)
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Russell, Gen. F. S. (Cheltenham)
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.)
 Tomlinson, W. E. Murray
 Triton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. William Moore and Mr.
 Carson.

Subsequent Amendments to Preamble
 disagreed to.

Remaining Amendments read a second
 time.

Several agreed to, without Amend-
 ment; one amended and agreed to.

Several disagreed to, and a consequen-
 tial Amendment made to the Bill.

Committee appointed to draw up
 Reasons to be assigned to the Lords for
 disagreeing to certain of their Amend-
 ments to the Bill.

Committee nominated of,—Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Clancy, Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Johnson-Ferguson, and Mr. Molloy.

Three to be the quorum.—(*Mr. T. W. Russell.*)

To withdraw immediately.

FYLDE WATER BOARD BILL [Lords].

WAKEFIELD CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

NORTH-EASTERN AND HULL AND
BARNSELY RAILWAYS (JOINT DOCKS)
BILL [Lords].

[By Order] ; as Amended, considered.

Amendments made.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.) : I have, on behalf of my hon. friend the Member for East Hull, to move the Amendment which stands in his name. This Bill is one which, in the interests of the public, provides for limiting the use of level crossings in a very populous part of Hull. One portion of the Bill leaves to the stipendiary magistrate the decision of any question which may arise upon the use of the level crossings. Then there is a second provision, which seems to me rather inconsistent, and in which the same question as to the use of the level crossings is referred to the Railway and Canal Commission, which latter body is to have power to make rules and regulations. A penalty clause is suggested by the Corporation, and by it, undoubtedly, the stipendiary magistrate is to be the authority for settling these questions. The Corporation of Hull feel that, in the interests of the public safety, the question of these level crossings should be brought before, and decided by, a tribunal which is very accessible, which is not costly, and which will give a speedy remedy, and they contend that that is not the case with the Railway and Canal Commission. The object of this Amendment is to maintain the local authority, which in this case is the stipendiary magistrate, for the purposes of determining these local, but nevertheless important, questions. I beg to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 21, line 37, to leave out from the word 'Hull,' to the word 'provided,' in page 22, line 7."—(*Sir Albert Rollit.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

SIR J. KENNAWAY (Devon, Honiton) : May I briefly explain that the Committee which sat upon this Bill preferred to give the town a very ready and accessible tribunal, and they therefore suggested that power should be given to the stipendiary magistrate to dispense with the rules in cases of emergency, and also a penal power, in case these rules were not carried out. They had no desire to impose on the stipendiary magistrate business with which he was not cognisant, such as the making of fresh rules, and therefore they left the Railway Commissioners as the ultimate tribunal to be appealed to. I would appeal to the hon. Member to withdraw the Amendment, and instead of it agree to an alteration, whereby the Railway Commissioners will be still left with power to make regulations, but will not come in as another tribunal alongside of the stipendiary magistrate with powers for deciding cases.

SIR J. JOICEY (Durham, Chester-le-Street) : The subject was most carefully considered by the Committee, the whole matter was thoroughly thrashed out on each side, and the clause, as it appears in the Bill, is the result of the representations of the learned counsel engaged by both parties. I think that under those circumstances it would be extremely unwise for the House to begin to make alterations and to override the decision of the Committee.

MR. MADDISON (Sheffield, Brightside) : I hope that the clause will not be allowed to stand as it is. The question of proper safeguards for public safety is of the utmost importance whenever level crossings are permitted in crowded towns. It is essential that there should be a simple and inexpensive remedy for any failure to properly carry out the regulations, and I hold it would not be fair to the Corporation of Hull to compel them to take any ques-

tion that might arise before the Railway Commission. Such a course would entail great expense. The Commission is not held in high favour by those persons whose duty most frequently brings them into contact with it.

***THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES** (Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, Cumberland, Penrith): I am bound to admit that there is force in the objection raised, and that it would be undesirable to leave it to the Railway Commission to determine whether a breach of the regulations has been committed after the stipendiary has given his decision. I would therefore suggest that if the alteration proposed is not adopted, the Debate should be adjourned.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT: I agree that an adjournment would be the best course to adopt under the circumstances.

Question, "That the Debate be now adjourned," put and agreed to.

Debate adjourned till To-morrow.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION (LONDON) BILL [Lords].

Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow.

SOUTHPORT AND LYTHAM TRAMROAD BILL [Lords].

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

SOUTHPORT AND LYTHAM TRAMROAD BILL [Lords].

Ordered, That, in the case of the Southport and Lytham Tramroad Bill [Lords], Standing Orders 211, 236, and 237 be suspended, and that the Committee on the Bill have leave to sit and proceed forthwith.—(*Dr. Farquharson.*)

DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL.

Reasons for disagreeing to certain of the Lords Amendments reported, and agreed to.

To be communicated to the Lords.

VOI- LXXV. [FOURTH SERIES.]

PETITIONS.

GROUND RENTS (TAXATION BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES).

Petition from Kirriemuir, in favour, to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petition from Somerby, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

BOARD OF TRADE (LABOUR DEPARTMENT) (ABSTRACT OF FOREIGN LABOUR STATISTICS).

Copy presented,—of Abstract of Foreign Labour Statistics relating to Wages, Hours of Labour, Trade Disputes, and Co-operation [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE UNIONS.

Copy presented,—of Report by the Chief Labour Correspondent of the Board of Trade on Trade Unions, 1898, with Comparative Statistics for 1892-7 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

NAVAL EXPENDITURE AND MERCANTILE MARINE (GREAT BRITAIN, ETC.)

Return presented,—relative thereto [ordered 21st March; *Sir John Colomb*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 310.)

COLONIAL LOANS.

Copy presented,—of Explanatory Statement as to proposed Loans comprised in the Schedule to the Colonial Loans Bill [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PRISONS (IRELAND).

Copy presented,—of Twenty-first Report of the General Prisons Board (Ireland) for 1898-9, with an Appendix [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

NAVY (COURTS MARTIAL).

Copy presented,—of Return of the number of Courts Martial held and Summary Punishments inflicted during the year 1898 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

NAVY (HEALTH).

Copy presented,—of Statistical Report of the Health of the Navy for the year 1898 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 311.]

SEAMEN AND MARINES (PENSIONS).

Return presented,—relative thereto [ordered 21st July; *Lord Charles Beresford*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 312.]

FLEETS (GREAT BRITAIN AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES).

Return presented,—relative thereto [ordered 21st July; *Sir Charles Dilke*]; to lie upon the Table; and to be printed. [No. 313.]

NAVAL PRIZE MONEY.

Account presented,—showing the Receipt and Expenditure of Naval Prize, Bounty, Salvage, and other Moneys between the 1st April 1898, and 31st March 1899 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 314.]

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented,—of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2323 to 2325 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

THORNTON JUNCTION STATION.

Copy ordered, “of Report by Colonel Sir Francis Marindin, K.C.M.G., of his inspection of Thornton Junction Station, on the North British Railway, with reference to complaints which have been received by the Board of Trade in regard to the accommodation at and access to that station.”—(*Mr. Ritchie.*)

Copy presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 315.]

ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER No. 17.

Return ordered, “of Motions for Adjournment under Standing Order No. 17, showing the date of such Motion, the name of the Member proposing, the definite matter of urgent public importance, and the result of any Division taken thereon during the Session of 1899 (in the same form as, and in continuation of, Parliamentary Paper No. 356, of Session 1898).”—(*Dr. Farquharson.*)

CLOSURE OF DEBATE (STANDING ORDER No. 25).

Return ordered, “respecting application of Standing Orders No. 25 (Closure of Debate) during Session 1899, under the following heads:—

	Date when Closure moved.	1.
	By whom moved.	2.
	Question before House or Committee when moved.	3.
	Whether in House or Committee.	4.
	Whether assent given to Motion or withheld by Speaker or Chairman.	5.
	Assent withheld because, in the opinion of the Chair, a decision would shortly be arrived at without that Motion.	6.
	Result of Motion, and, if a Division, Numbers for and against.	7.

(in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 357, of Session 1898).”—(*Dr. Farquharson.*)

DIVISIONS OF THE HOUSE.

Return ordered, “of the number of Divisions of the House in the Session of 1899; stating the subject of the Division, and the number of Members in the majority and minority, Tellers included; also, the aggregate number in the House on each Division: distinguishing the Divisions on Public Business from Private; and also the number of Divisions before and after midnight (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 0,280, of Session 1898).”—(*Dr. Farquharson.*)

PUBLIC BILLS.

Return ordered, “of the number of Public Bills, distinguishing Government

from other Bills, introduced into this House, or brought from the House of Lords, during the Session of 1899; showing the number which received the Royal Assent; the number which were passed by this House, but not by the House of Lords; the number passed by the House of Lords, but not by this House; and distinguishing the stages at which such Bills as did not receive the Royal Assent were dropped or postponed and rejected in either House of Parliament (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 0,283, of Session 1898).”—(*Dr. Farquharson.*)

PUBLIC PETITIONS.

Return ordered, “of the number of Public Petitions presented and printed in the Session of 1899; with the total number of signatures in that year (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 0,282, of Session 1898).”—(*Dr. Farquharson.*)

SELECT COMMITTEES.

Return ordered, “of the number of Select Committees appointed in the Session of 1899, including the Standing Committees and the Court of Referees; the subjects of inquiry; the names of the Members appointed to serve on each, and of the Chairman of each; the number of days each Committee met, and the number of days each Member attended; the total expense of the attendance of witnesses at each Select Committee, and the name of the Member who moved for such Select Committee; also the total number of Members who served on Select Committees (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 0,279, of Session 1898).”—(*Dr. Farquharson.*)

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE.

Return ordered, “of the number of days on which the House sat in the Session of 1899, stating for each day the date of the month and day of the week, the hour of the meeting, and the hour of adjournment; and the total number of hours occupied in the Sittings of the House, and the average time; and showing the number of hours on which the House sat each day, and the number of hours after midnight; and the number of entries in each day’s Votes and Proceedings (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 0,281, of Session 1898).”—(*Dr. Farquharson.*)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (DAYS OCCUPIED BY GOVERNMENT AND BY PRIVATE MEMBERS.)

Return ordered, “showing, with reference to the Session of 1899, (1) the number of Sittings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at which Government business had precedence; (2) the number of sittings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at which Private Members had precedence; (3) the number of other sittings at which, in accordance with the Standing Orders of the House, Government business had precedence; (4) the number of sittings at which Government business had precedence under a special order of the House; (5) the number of Saturday sittings; (6) the total number of sittings at which Government business had precedence; (7) the total number of days on which the House sat; (8) the total number of Motions for Adjournment of the House on a matter of urgent public importance; and (9) the number of days in Supply (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 358, of Session 1898).”—(*Dr. Farquharson.*)

PRIVATE BILLS AND PRIVATE BUSINESS.

Returns ordered, “of the number of Private Bills, Hybrid Bills, and Bills for confirming Provisional Orders introduced into the House of Commons and brought from the House of Lords, and of Acts passed in the Session of 1899, classed according to the following subjects:—Railways; Tramways; Tramroads; Subways; Canals and Navigations; Roads and Bridges; Water; Gas; Gas and Water; Improvement; Police and Sanitary Regulations; Corporations, &c. (not relating to Police and Sanitary Regulations); Ports, Piers, Harbours, and Docks; Churches, Chapels, and Burying Grounds; Markets and Fairs; Inclosure and Drainage; Estate; Divorce; Naturalisation; and Miscellaneous”:

“Of all the Private Bills, Hybrid Bills, and Bills for confirming Provisional Orders which in the Session of 1899 have been reported on by Committees on opposed Private Bills or by Committees nominated partly by the House and partly by the Committee of Selection, together with the names of the selected Members who served on each Committee; the first and also the last day of the sitting of each Committee; the num-

ber of days on which each Committee sat ; the number of days on which each selected Member has served ; the number of days occupied by each Bill in Committee ; the Bills the preambles of which were reported to have been proved ; the Bills the preambles of which were reported to have been not proved ; and, in the case of Bills for confirming Provisional Orders, whether the Provisional Orders ought or ought not to be confirmed " :

"Of all Private Bills and Bills for confirming Provisional Orders which, in the Session of 1899, have been referred by the Committee of Selection, or by the General Committee on Railway and Canal Bills, to the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, together with the names of the Members who served on each Committee ; the number of days on which each Committee sat ; and the number of days on which each Member attended " :

"And of the number of Private Bills, Hybrid Bills, and Bills for confirming Provisional Orders withdrawn or not proceeded with by the parties, those Bills being specified which have been referred to Committees and dropped during the sittings of the Committee (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 0,278, of Session 1898)."—(*Dr. Farquharson.*)

QUESTIONS.

ROYAL MARINE ARTILLERY.

SIR J. COLOMB (Yarmouth): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty in what way the officers and men of the Royal Marine Artillery are specially employed in ships where there are the largest guns, in view of the fact that the Prize Firing Return shows that no gun crews are drawn from the Royal Marine Artillery for the service of the heaviest guns.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. GOSCHEN, St. George's, Hanover Square): According to the scheme of complements the officers and men of the Royal Marine Artillery are drafted only to flagships and battleships, where they take part in the general duties of the ships as directed by the commanding officer. The circumstances

that no Marine Artillery competed for prizes for the firing of barbette and turret guns, as shown in the return referred to by the hon. and gallant Gentleman, is accounted for by the fact that they do not qualify as captains of these guns, which are worked and mounted hydraulically.

"BRASSEY'S NAVAL ANNUAL."

MR. HOGAN (Tipperary, Mid.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty what is the position of the Admiralty in relation to the publication of "Brassey's Naval Annual" ; have officers under the jurisdiction of the Admiralty been permitted to contribute to its pages from time to time ; and has the Admiralty ever had reason to complain of the disclosure of official secrets in this work.

MR. GOSCHEN: The position of the Admiralty in relation to "Brassey's Naval Annual" may be described as one of benevolent neutrality. A few picture drawings, showing the external appearance of the finished ships, have been furnished by the Admiralty, but no important or confidential details. Officials serving under the Admiralty have not contributed papers to the "Annual." With regard to the last question of the hon. Member, my friend Lord Brassey is certainly not the man to countenance the disclosure of official secrets.

MEDICINE CONTRACTS FOR THE NAVY.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick's): I beg to ask the Under Secretary to the Admiralty whether, seeing that when the last contracts for Naval estimates for medicines were advertised the Irish firms got no opportunity of tendering, he can state when the tenders for medicines will be again considered, and whether the Irish firms will then have an opportunity of tendering.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. MACARTNEY, Antrim, S.): Contracts for medicines are not advertised. Competition is confined to firms of undoubted reputation for the supply of first-class articles. Should any Irish firm establish its claim to hold such a position and desire to be allowed to quote, there would be no objection to its doing so. The present contracts expire in 1902.

KEYHAM EXTENSION WORKS.

MR. WOODS (Essex, Walthamstow) : I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether he is aware that the employees of Sir John Jackson, who is at the present time carrying out a Government contract at the Keyham Extension Works, Devonport, are working 56½ hours per week for a week's wages, although the recognised hours in the district are 53 hours per week ; and if he will take steps to insure that the terms of the Fair Wages Resolution, passed by the House on 13th February, 1891, are complied with.

THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.) : I am informed that it is not a fact that any men work more than the regulation hours of the district for a week's wages. All men are paid by the hour. The usual hours in the district for masons and bricklayers are 53 hours per week, and overtime rates are paid for any hours in excess of this.

WHITTINGTON (LICHFIELD) BARRACKS.

MR. WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether no land has yet been acquired for a range near Whittington Barracks, near Lichfield, and no progress has been made in coming to an agreement for the purchase of the land ; and could he state what obstacle has caused a delay of over a year after the site has been approved by the War Office.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover) : No land has yet been acquired, because the owners have declined to sell. It will therefore be necessary to use compulsory powers. This involves—first, a local inquiry, and second, an Act of Parliament, and the Act cannot be passed till next session. There has been no delay beyond what is inevitable when negotiation fails, and compulsion has to be used.

MR. WARNER : Is it proposed to make all preparations, and to bring in a Bill early next year ?

*MR. WYNDHAM : We shall certainly be desirous of bringing in a Bill as soon as possible.

GREAT YARMOUTH BARRACKS.

SIR J. COLOMB : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War

whether the War Office acquired in 1875, from the Corporation of Great Yarmouth, a site, with a sea frontage, consisting of about twenty-three acres, which was acquired and paid for under the Military Forces Localisation Act of 1872 ; whether the property is freehold, what was the amount paid to the Corporation for it, what was the expenditure by the War Office on the erection of the barrack on this site, and what number of single soldiers it was built to accommodate ; whether for ten months in the year there are only about sixty single soldiers occupying that barrack, situated within two miles of a range provided by the Corporation, and laid out to meet the views of the War Office ; whether the War Office is aware that the estimated value of the twenty-three acres in question is now about £50,000, excluding buildings, and whether it is intended to fully occupy these barracks all the year round, or otherwise to utilise this site ; and whether in the United Kingdom there are other barracks, built under the Military Forces Localisation Act, only partially occupied for the greater portion of the year.

*MR. WYNDHAM : The site referred to was acquired in 1875, and consists of about twenty-one acres. It is freehold. The amount paid to the Corporation was £1,635, and to the county for residue of lease and buildings, £12,500. The cost of alterations and additions for the dépôt of the Norfolk Artillery Militia was £17,137. The buildings now accommodate 185 men. The average numbers present in 1898 were 77, but strengths at all dépôts are subject to constant variation. If the site were sold another barrack would have to be built in the neighbourhood, and it is not considered probable that anything would be gained by the transaction. This is one of the barracks selected to receive convalescent soldiers.

MILITARY PENSIONS.—PATRICK DWYER.

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.) : I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been drawn to the case of Patrick Dwyer, late private in the 2nd Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers, who was discharged disabled as the result of wounds received in the course of action, and has been paid upon his discharge 9d. per day for twelve months, and subsequently in 1893 was granted 6d. per

day for two years; and, whether, seeing that if he had not been wounded and disabled, and had served three months more, he would be entitled as a right to 6d. per day for six years, the authorities of the War Office will reconsider his case, and grant him the pension he would be entitled to if he had not been wounded.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Mr. J. POWELL-WILLIAMS, Birmingham, S.): Patrick Dwyer was not discharged on account of wounds received in action, but because he dislocated his shoulder while leading two ponies to water. The Commissioners of Chelsea Hospital gave him a temporary pension when he was discharged in 1890, and it was renewed in 1895 and 1896; but ceased in 1897, as it was found that Dwyer had made a perfect recovery. If he had completed seven years' service and had been sound in health, he would have been required to serve in the Reserve for five years and would have been paid sixpence a day in return for his liability.

PRESBYTERIAN CHAPLAINS IN INDIA.

MR. JAMES CAMPBELL (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India if he is yet able to give a reply to the complaint submitted on behalf of the Church of Scotland as to difficulties experienced in several instances by Presbyterian chaplains of the Forces in India in obtaining the use of Government churches for public worship.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): As my honourable friend is aware, both the Viceroy and myself are desirous that Presbyterians should, wherever it is practicable, have every facility afforded them to worship in the churches which have been set apart for or are ordinarily used by the Church of England. In this view the Metropolitan of India heartily concurs. As my hon. friend is aware, I am now obtaining legal opinion as to what is the effect of consecration according to the rites of the Church of England on churches in India. On this point largely depends the procedure to be adopted to give effect to our wishes, but I shall not obtain that opinion for some little time.

BURMA DEPUTY COMMISSIONERSHIP.

MR. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India will he explain why Major Parsons has been promoted by the authorities in Burma to be a deputy commissioner of the first grade over the heads of all other officers in other grades who were senior to Major Parsons; and whether he has sanctioned this action of the Burma authorities.

LORD G. HAMILTON: The circumstances of Major Parsons' case, which was brought before me by the Government of India in October 1898, were very complicated, and the question as to the position which he ought to hold in the service was a difficult one. After careful consideration, I decided that he should be treated as a supernumerary in every grade, above the lowest to which he might be appointed. The effect of this decision, which appears to have been duly carried out, is that his own reasonable expectations will be fulfilled, but that his successive promotions have not interfered and will not interfere with those of the other officers in the Burma Commission.

TYPHOID FEVER IN INDIA.

GENERAL RUSSELL (Cheltenham): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been called to the yearly increasing virulence of typhoid fever in India, although a few years since this disease was almost unknown in that country; and whether any report has been received by the Government of India as a result of the investigations, which more than two years since he stated were then being conducted into the causes of this disease; and, if so, whether this Report will be laid upon the Table of the House.

LORD G. HAMILTON: I have observed with regret the increasing prevalence of enteric fever in India, a subject which is continually engaging the attention of the Government of India. I would point out, however, that the virulence of the disease, as tested by the ratio between the number of deaths and the number of admissions to hospital per thousand of the British troops in India, has decreased. From 1878 to 1883 it was nearly one to two, from 1884 to 1888 about one to three;

since then not much more than one to four. No general Report has been issued as a result of the investigations which are being pursued into the origin of enteric fever in cantonments in India, but I have received special Reports from the Government of India on the sanitary conditions of certain cantonments which have been made the subject of individual investigation. Steps have been taken to remedy the defects reported. With reference to the reply which I gave to my hon. and gallant friend's question of the 23rd February last, I may state that voluntary inoculation against enteric fever at the public expense among the British troops in India has now been sanctioned.

WAZIRI TROUBLES.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India what is the distance between Wano, in the Waziri country (the place to which the baggage train of Mr. Watson, the Indian Government's Political Officer, was proceeding when attacked by Waziris on the 21st inst.), and the western frontier line of British India; what is the distance between Wano and Dera Ismail Khan; what is the number and status of Indian Government troops now stationed at or near Wano, and at other points in the Waziri country; and what political and civil officers are being maintained by us in that foreign territory; and, is there any near prospect of these forces and officers being withdrawn from Waziristan, in accordance with the recently indicated policy of the Government to reduce our occupation of Afghan tribal territory.

LORD G. HAMILTON: The distance between Wano and the station of Tank, on the borders of the British district of Dera Ismail Khan, is fifty-five miles. The distance to Dera Ismail Khan, headquarters of the district, is 115. There are 1,050 men in the nominal strength of the Wano garrison of Indian Government troops, and at Jandola and Sarvekai there are about 410 more. These numbers exclude the tribal levies and border militia. In the Tochi Valley there are 2,300 native troops. One European Political Officer, an assistant, and five Naib Tahsildars, besides their office establishments, are stationed in Southern Waziristan at or near Wano. The question of substituting militia for troops at Wano and in the

neighbourhood is under the consideration of the Viceroy. The region in question is not Afghan territory, being within the boundaries of the area settled by the Durand Agreement to be under the influence of the Indian Government.

BURMA CHIEF COURT.

MR. PICKERSGILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether it is in contemplation to establish a Chief Court in Burma; and whether, before that step is taken, an opportunity will be afforded to this House to pronounce upon the desirability of establishing a High Court instead of a Chief Court in that country.

LORD G. HAMILTON: I am in correspondence with the Government of India in regard to the proposal to establish a Chief Court in Burma. I am not prepared to postpone a decision on the subject until this House has discussed the question whether a High Court or a Chief Court is more desirable for the province. But I may observe that legislation in Parliament would be necessary to enable another High Court to be established in India.

EUROPEAN PRISONERS IN INDIAN GAOLS.

MR. LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): On behalf of the hon. Member for Flintshire, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Government will take into practical consideration the special hardships which long-term European prisoners now suffer in India owing to their inability to bear the climatical effects under gaol conditions, as compared with the native prisoners around them; and whether the Government will locate this particular class in some prison in the hill districts.

LORD G. HAMILTON: This question has been carefully considered, but in view of the small numbers of the class of prisoners to whom it refers, and of the great expense and other disadvantages of providing separate gaols for them, it has been decided to leave matters as they are; more especially as the accommodation provided for European prisoners has been very favourably reported upon by expert authorities. It should also be remembered that the Courts, in sentencing Europeans, take into consideration the effects of

limate, and that such prisoners, if their health requires it, can be transferred to the United Kingdom under an Act of 1884.

FAMAGUSTA HARBOUR WORKS.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies what are the harbour works at Famagusta contemplated in the Colonial Loans Bill.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): The works consist of dredging out the old harbour and building a quay wall alongside of which ships can berth to load and discharge cargo.

SIR CHARLES DILKE: What is the proportion of expense on actual harbour works?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Perhaps the right hon. Baronet will ask me that again.

TRANSVAAL.—RELIGIOUS DISABILITIES.

MR. HOGAN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has received any official confirmation of the report that President Kruger has agreed to the removal of the religious disabilities that have hitherto existed in connection with representation in the Raad and employment in the public service of the Transvaal.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The answer is in the negative.

COLONIAL LOANS RETURNS.

MR. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will lay a Return before the House giving the expenditure for the year 1898 in various colonies and places affected by the Colonial Loans Bill, in supplement of the Return just issued, which gives the revenue only.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I shall be very glad to give the hon. Gentleman what he wishes for; but there are many things which must be taken into consideration, and in some cases the expenditure for a given year does not represent the normal expenditure.

THE HAGUE CONFERENCE.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeenshire, S.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs a question of which I have given him private notice—whether he can state when the Papers relating to the Hague Conference will be presented.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): The Papers will be presented without avoidable delay, but I am afraid it will be impossible to circulate them before the close of the session.

WILKIE'S PORTRAIT OF HER MAJESTY.

MR. NEWDIGATE (Warwickshire, Nuneaton): On behalf of the hon. Member for the Romford Division of Essex, I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the offer of the Rev. the Marquess of Normanby to the Trustees of the National Portrait Gallery, with respect to the full-length portrait of Her Majesty the Queen in Her Robes of States, painted by Sir David Wilkie, R.A., is still open; whether a similar offer with respect to portraits of King Charles I. and Queen Henrietta Maria, of whom the gallery possesses but very inadequate portraits, is also open; and whether he will allocate the sum of £3,159 for the purchase of the three portraits aforesaid, which, executed by great painters, have been declared by the trustees to be of great historical importance, and their acquisition a great benefit to the nation.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS-BEACH, Bristol, W.): I understand that the Trustees of the National Portrait Gallery do not now desire to acquire the portrait of Her Majesty the Queen referred to. I see no sufficient ground for a special grant for the purchase of the other two pictures named. Better portraits of these personages are already in the National Collection.

LOAN CAPITAL AND THE FINANCE ACT.

MR. BRYCE: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been called to the apprehensions which exist in Scotland as to the construction which may be put upon the definition of the term "loan capital," in Section 8, Sub-section 5, of the Finance

Act of this year; whether, to remove such apprehensions, he can state that the Act was not designed to and does not impose the duty of 2s. 6d. per cent. on money borrowed otherwise than by way of an addition to capital or debenture stock, and in particular that it will not be leviable on deposits with, or loans to, bankers, or financial or trading companies, or private firms, of more than two persons fixed for longer than twelve months; and whether, if he should find that the apprehensions referred to continue and are widely felt, he will consider the propriety in the next Finance Act of revising and limiting the definition of the term "loan capital" in the Act of this session.

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: I understand from communications which I have received from the right hon. Gentleman that some of his constituents entertain apprehensions on this point. I am advised that Section 8 of the Finance Act, 1899, will not affect the ordinary transactions of loans to bankers, financial or trading companies, or private firms, upon deposit, even although the period of the loan is fixed for longer than twelve months. Such a transaction would not, I am advised, constitute an "issue of loan capital." I have no reason to think that the apprehensions referred to are widely felt, and as they appear to me to be groundless, I see no reason for amending the law.

COLONIAL LOANS BILL.

MR. BUCHANAN: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the sums, amounting in all to more than £1,148,000, which have been borrowed by the Crown Agents in anticipation of the passing of the Colonial Loans Bill, have been borrowed with the consent of the Treasury; and in what form and at what times was such consent given.

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: These sums were borrowed in anticipation of the issue of loans authorised by the Colonial legislatures and sanctioned by the Secretary of State, which did not require the consent of the Treasury. The issue of the loans, however, was deferred in consequence of the introduction of the Colonial Loans Fund Bill in the last and present sessions, and it is now proposed

to substitute for them loans from the Local Loans Fund under the Bill now before the House.

THE MUZZLING ORDER IN STAFFORDSHIRE.

MR. WARNER: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture, when he proposes to withdraw the muzzling order in the Lichfield Union of Staffordshire, where no case of rabies has occurred for nearly four years.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (MR. LONG, Liverpool, West Derby): It would not be possible for me to deal with the case of the Lichfield Union apart from the remainder of the area in the Midland counties over which muzzling orders extend, but the time for the withdrawal of these orders is now rapidly approaching.

SWINE FEVER ORDERS IN THE WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he is aware that swine fever orders have been issued by the West Riding County Council prohibiting the importation of swine from Ireland under severe penalties; and whether, seeing that all swine exported from Ireland are passed by a veterinary inspector, and that swine fever is much more prevalent in England than in Ireland at present, he can take any steps to get this order rescinded.

*MR. LONG: I have received a copy of the regulation to which the hon. Member refers. It was made by the Local Authority in the exercise of the discretionary powers which they possess for the protection of their district, and in consequence of the fact that several recent outbreaks of disease had been traced to swine brought to the West Riding from Ireland. In the circumstances the action of the Local Authority seems to me to be fully justified, but I will, of course, communicate to them the representations made by the hon. Member.

MR. FIELD: The right hon. Gentleman has not answered the second portion of the question.

*MR. LONG: I have said that these regulations are made by the Local Authority in the exercise of its discretion, and

cannot properly be interfered with ; but I will communicate any representations the hon. Member may like to make.

MR. FIELD : Will the right hon. Gentlemansay whether swine fever is not more prevalent in England than in Ireland at the present moment ; and whether the precautions taken in Ireland have not been more successful than those taken in England ?

*MR. LONG : I do not know and cannot say that.

MR. FIELD : I mean it is——

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order !

SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION AT CORSTORPHINE.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON (Glasgow, Bridgeton) : I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, with reference to the 900 children of school age in Kilmalcolm School Board District who, notwithstanding the Scottish law as to compulsory education, have been left without education since April last, whether the attention of the Scottish Education Department has been called to the fact that, in the analogous case of the children collected in the Murrayfield Home of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, education is provided by the School Board of Corstorphine ; and whether he is aware that, in order that accommodation might be provided for them, the Corstorphine School Board was compelled to enlarge the school, and whether the enlargement was ordered by the Scottish Education Department.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire) : The Department is not prepared to admit that the case of the children from the Murrayfield Home, attending the Corstorphine School, is analogous to that of the Orphan Homes at Kilmalcolm. In the former case about sixty children from the home attend the public school. An enlargement of the school was suggested by the inspector in the year 1894, before any question of the attendance of the children from the home, or of the respective liability of the managers of the home and the School Board, was raised. The managers of the home were ready to educate the children in the home if the school was recognised for a grant, while

a similar proposal in regard to the Kilmalcolm Homes has been refused by the managers. The Corstorphine Board desired to make the School Boards from whose districts the children came share the expense of providing accommodation, but it did not appear that this was possible under the Education Acts.

POLLUTION OF THE RIVER THAMES.

MR. RYDER (Gravesend) : I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware of the foul condition of the River Thames between London and Purfleet ; whether he is aware of the noxious odour arising therefrom ; can he explain the cause ; and will he take immediate steps, in the interests of the health of those travelling and engaged thereon, with a view to remedy the evils complained of.

*THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. T. W. RUSSELL, Tyrone, S.) : My right hon. friend has communicated with the Conservators of the River Thames on this subject, and he is informed that the only specific complaint they have received related to the condition of the river on the 21st July, when the Harbour Master reported that the water was black with unpleasant odour at Jenningtree Point, the discoloration being traceable to the Metropolitan main drainage outfall. The outfall works are under the control of the London County Council, and the Conservators have brought the Report under the notice of the Council. The Conservators further state that inquiries have been made by their officers on the river as to the recent condition of the water, and they report that during the past week or two the condition of the water has not been satisfactory. They consider this due in some measure to the hot weather, but are of opinion that the river water in the neighbourhood of Crossness has recently been affected by the discharge from the main drainage outfall. The attention of the London County Council will be called to the matter referred to in the question of the hon. Member.

POPLAR WORKHOUSE.

MR. PICKERSGILL : I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the report of the hearing of a charge at the Thames

Police Court on the 26th of July of refractory conduct on the part of an inmate of the Poplar Workhouse, when the magistrate, referring to that case and similar cases brought before him, commented on a want of judgment in inflicting punishments in that institution; and whether he will direct special inquiry to be made into the administration of the Poplar Workhouse.

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL: My right hon. friend has made inquiry as to the case referred to, and he finds that the inmate in question is an able-bodied man of about 35 years of age. He is stated to have been a very troublesome person, and he appears to have been convicted before the magistrates ten times during the last ten years for various offences in the Poplar and West Ham Workhouses. It does not appear to be necessary that any special inquiry should be directed into the administration of the Poplar Workhouse.

E.C.D.O. POSTAL OVERSEERSHIPS.

MR. STEADMAN (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether he will state the reason that within the last two years the new observation overseer has been created at E.C.D.O.; whether he is aware that two of these overseers have since the date of their appointment, now nearly two years ago, been almost exclusively engaged in watching the men on one or two walks only, although no definite charge of any description has been brought against any of those men; and, will he, in accordance with the tenor of the statements he has frequently made on behalf of the Postmaster-General in this House, see that the practice is discontinued.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): The two overseers referred to were appointed in February last year for the purpose of checking postmen on delivering duties, and submitting proposals for re-arrangement of walks where necessary. It is not the case that the overseers have been almost exclusively engaged in watching the men on one or two walks only. On the contrary, a large number of walks have been re-adjusted, as the result

of their work, to the benefit of nearly 150 postmen; and occasional irregularities have been put a stop to. The Postmaster-General has no intention of discontinuing the services of the overseers in question, and I do not know what the hon. Member refers to when he speaks of the tenor of my observations.

POSTMEN'S STRIPES.

MR. STEADMAN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, will he explain why the good conduct stripe due to Postman F. G. Cook, of the East Central District Office, 13th December, 1896, is to be withheld till 1901, when it had already been decided that it was only to be withheld for twelve months prior to the new regulations which carry into force re-stripes as laid down by the Tweedmouth Committee.

MR. HANBURY: It was not decided that the good conduct stripe was to be withheld for twelve months only. The decision was that the case might be brought up again for consideration in twelve months, and no pledge was given. By the time the twelve months had expired the new rules based on the recommendations of the Tweedmouth Committee were in force, and the necessary certificate of five years' unblemished service could not be furnished. The award of the stripe must therefore be deferred until the expiration of this period.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES.

MR. JOHN WILSON (Falkirk Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, if he is aware that the Secretary at the General Post Office, Edinburgh, has called upon Mr. Keith, the Provost of Hamilton and a merchant there, to register an abbreviated telegraphic address or to request all his correspondents to make use in future of his full address, Keith, 84, Cadzow Street, Hamilton, and, failing his doing so, has intimated that instructions will be issued to the local postmaster not to deliver messages addressed to Keith, Hamilton; if he is aware that hitherto there has been no difficulty nor confusion in the delivery of telegrams so addressed, and therefore no necessity to interfere with the discretion of the local postmaster; and will he

instruct the Secretary at Edinburgh to withdraw such orders or not to issue them, except in such cases where complaints have been made of telegrams being improperly delivered through insufficient address.

MR. HANBURY: The answer to the first paragraph is in the affirmative. The Post Office are of opinion that as there is more than one person of the name of Keith in Cadzow Street, Hamilton, it is necessary, whether or not there has been difficulty or confusion in the past, that every message should be fully addressed, as otherwise difficulty and confusion are likely at any time to occur, and an important telegram may get into wrong hands. The Postmaster-General does not see his way, therefore, to give the suggested instructions to the Secretary in Edinburgh.

BALLINA POSTAL DUTIES.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether he is aware that the male clerks in Ballina have to perform a duty extending from 3 a.m. to 9 a.m., and again from 8.30 p.m. to 10 p.m.; and whether he would endeavour to rearrange the duty, inasmuch as, out of a staff of seven appointed hands, three only are told off for the performance of this heavy night duty; whether he is aware that the male sorting clerks and telegraphists in Ballina office are scarcely allowed any time for telegraph work, being in charge of the telegraph six hours only in every six weeks; and will the matter be inquired into with a view to giving the men a fair turn of telegraph work.

MR. HANBURY: There are two duties which include a portion of night work at the Ballina Post Office. The one referred to by the hon. Member includes three hours of night duty and the other includes two. As at present arranged the heavier duty is shared among three sorting clerks, to each of whom it falls in turn for two weeks in every six. They have an interval of nearly twelve hours between the periods of duty, and in no case does their attendance exceed eight hours. The Postmaster-General hopes, however, that it may be possible to somewhat improve the rotation of their night attendance, and is making further

inquiry on the subject. Of the seven members of the staff mentioned three are women, for whom the night postal duties are not suitable, and the telegraph work is therefore mainly performed by them. It would not be practicable under present circumstances to make any material change in the allotment of this section of the duty.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS.

MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, prior to the next session of Parliament, he will cause it to be considered whether the expense incurred in the supply of printed matter to Members may not, without disadvantage, be further diminished by discontinuing the distribution of Reports on Private Bills, of voluminous Amendments to such Bills, and of Amendments to Bills, which it is known will not be considered.

MR. HANBURY: The alteration suggested by the hon. Member cannot be made by the Treasury alone, but would require the assent of the authorities of the House. I will consult them on the subject.

COLERAINE POSTMASTERSHIP.

MR. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, what steps have been taken to fill the existing vacancy in the postmastership of Coleraine; has the place been officially declared vacant, and have applications been invited from candidates; and whether this place is to be conferred upon an Englishman.

MR. HANBURY: The vacancy was notified in the Post Office circular of the 11th ultimo, and candidates invited to send in their names through the prescribed channels.

LIMERICK POSTMEN'S PAY.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether the Postmaster-General received, in April last, a petition from the postmen of Limerick asking to be placed on a higher scale of pay, to place them on an equality with the postmen in Cork, as their scale and duties are the same, although their pay is 2s. per week lower

than the pay of the Cork postmen, and the cost of living in Limerick is quite as high as in Cork; whether the petition has been considered and replied to; and whether he intends to grant the increase of pay asked for.

MR. HANBURY: The petition has been duly received. The question was examined by the Postmaster-General as recently as March, 1898, in connection with a previous memorial, and he decided that no increase of wages was warranted at Limerick. As the circumstances are unchanged, this decision must be maintained. The general higher rate of labour wages at Cork, and the greater size and importance of the town are considered to justify the payment of the Cork postmen on a higher scale.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the conditions of life, the expense of food and clothing, and the house rents are as costly in one place as the other?

MR. HANBURY: All that is no doubt taken into account.

PAID MONITORS IN IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the attention of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury has been directed to the position of persons who have served as paid monitors in Irish National Schools, with the view of having the same age allowances granted them when competing for Civil Service appointments as are granted to members of the Royal Irish Constabulary at Civil Service competitions; and whether the Civil Service Commissioners will be instructed to make the necessary age allowance to this class of persons at their examinations.

MR. HANBURY: Monitors are not in the service of the State, and I can hold out no hope that facilities allowed only to servants of the State will be extended to outsiders.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGES IN FLINTSHIRE.

MR. LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, how

many telephone exchanges have been established in Flintshire; and what is the total number of subscribers in that county.

MR. HANBURY: According to the latest information in the possession of the Postmaster-General there are exchanges at five places in the County of Flint—viz., Buckley, Connah's Quay, Holywell, Mold and Rhyl; and the total number of subscribers connected with these exchanges is 89.

DUBLIN POST OFFICE MESSENGERS.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether he is aware that a number of established postmen in the Dublin Office employed as night adult messengers have upon application been refused the counting of this service towards good conduct stripes, and whether while in this class they were supplied with postmen's uniform, and were in no manner distinguished from unestablished postmen; and what is the reason for the refusal to allow this duty to reckon towards good conduct stripes in the case of established postmen.

MR. HANBURY: It is a rule that no service in the capacity of messenger shall be allowed to count towards good conduct stripes. The men referred to were, while acting as adult messengers, provided with postmen's uniform under a special arrangement, but the Postmaster-General does not consider that this fact affords any sufficient ground for departing from the rule.

BOARD OF EDUCATION BILL.

MR. AUSTIN (Limerick, W.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Government is prepared to introduce a clause into the Board of Education Bill defining the term "secondary education," and ensuring that no such education shall be provided out of the funds applicable to the purposes of technical instruction under the Technical Instruction Acts.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (Sir J. GORST, Cambridge University): My right hon. friend has asked me to answer this. I can assure the hon.

Member that the Government are not prepared to introduce such a clause into the Board of Education Bill.

MR. AUSTIN: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the statement appearing in the Return issued by the Education Department, dated 1st June, 1897, on secondary and other schools (not being public elementary or technical schools), that it is impossible to prescribe any definition of a secondary school, the Government are prepared to introduce a clause into the Board of Education Bill limiting the inspection of schools contemplated by Section 3 to such schools as the Board of Education may consider fall within the definition of schools supplying secondary education, and may be inspected by the Board's own officers with a view to the preparation of a further Report to be laid before Parliament, setting out the subjects and scope of instruction given in those schools, the ages of the pupils, and the occupation of the parents.

SIR J. GORST: No, the Government do not think it would be expedient to limit the operation of the Board of Education Bill in the manner suggested.

MR. AUSTIN: Will the right hon. Gentleman undertake to say that no money allotted to secondary education will be given to technical schools?

SIR J. GORST: There is a clause in the Bill which deals with that question.

LOUTH LAND SUB-COMMISSION.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland how often, and for how many days, have Sub-Commissions held sittings in North Louth within the past year, and how many cases were disposed of; and would he represent to the Land Commission that some feeling exists as to the delay in hearing fair rent cases in Louth.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (MR. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): During the past twelve months no sitting of a Sub-Commission was held for the Union of Dundalk, which presumably is the district referred to in the

Question. The last sitting held at Dundalk was in July, 1898, when over ninety cases were heard by the Sub-Commission. Decisions have been announced in all these cases. I am informed that a further list containing a number of cases from the Dundalk Union is at present in circulation, and that the hearing of this list will be commenced without any avoidable delay.

PROMOTION IN THE ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.

MR. T. M. HEALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Inspector General's Circular to the Royal Irish Constabulary regulates the promotion from the ranks; if so, are all head constables possessing the qualifications it prescribes necessarily allowed to compete; how many eligible head constables have applied for permission to compete when yet within the age limit, and have been refused; and was any reason or explanation offered to the candidate for the refusal; and would the Government cause this competition to be placed on a basis which will entitle every qualified head constable to compete as a matter of right.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: The Circular of 17th January, 1895, amended the rules of the Constabulary Code regulating promotion from the rank of head constable to that of district inspector. The amended rules provide for this promotion—firstly, by selection from among head constables within the prescribed age of forty-eight, subject to their passing a qualifying examination; and secondly, by selection from among all head constables under the age of forty-two, who have passed the prescribed Civil Service Examination, subject to a competitive examination in professional subjects. I understand the hon. and learned Member to ask me whether the Government is prepared to eliminate from the process of promotion the element of selection, and my answer to this question must be in the negative. As regards the second paragraph, several head constables, who were within the limit of age, have from time to time applied for permission to come forward for examination, but no record has been kept of the number of such applications. It is not usual in these cases, nor would it be expedient, to explain the reasons why such men are con-

sidered ineligible for a higher rank. A head constable may be very efficient as such, and yet be altogether unsuitable for the more responsible position of district inspector.

MR. T. M. HEALY: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether, as the Constabulary Estimates have not for several years been under discussion, he will not undertake to examine personally into the feeling which prevails among the lower ranks of the police force as to what is believed to be favouritism with regard to the selection of officers?

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I am quite willing to examine into the matter, but I do not see how, in the process of selection, it would be possible to avoid some dissatisfaction.

MR. FIELD: Is it the intention of the present regulation to shut out senior constables from becoming district inspectors?

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: Not at all. Many of the inspectorships are filled from the ranks.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Have not the Government adopted a system which really destroys the advantages supposed to be derived from the rule?

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I do not think so. Anyway, I notice that the regulations now in force are those laid down by the late Government.

IRISH PETTY SESSIONS CLERKSHIPS.

MR. T. M. HEALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether district inspectors and head constables are eligible for appointments to Petty Sessions clerkships up to the age of fifty years, while sergeants and other members of the Royal Irish Constabulary are not eligible after the age of forty-five years; and could he see his way to raise the limit to fifty years for all ranks.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: Retired district inspectors and head constables are eligible for appointment as clerks of Petty

Sessions up to the age of fifty years; retired sergeants up to the age of forty-five; and retired constables up to the age of forty. The question of adopting a uniform limit of age is under consideration by the Lord Lieutenant.

DISCHARGED SOLDIERS AND THE IRISH POLICE.

GENERAL RUSSELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether it is true that no discharged soldiers are employed in the Royal Irish Constabulary or in the Dublin Police; and, if so, what is the cause of this restriction, and whether he can see his way to have it forthwith removed.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: It is not true that no soldiers are employed in the Royal Irish Constabulary or the Dublin Metropolitan Police. There is no restriction upon the admission of discharged soldiers to either force provided they are in all respects eligible, and, as a matter of fact, there are a number of ex-soldiers at present serving in both forces.

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland how many superintendents and inspectors of the Dublin Metropolitan Police have surpassed thirty years of service, and by how much; and whether, seeing that the expert evidence given before the last Commission of Inquiry into the causes of discontent amongst the rank and file of the Dublin police was strongly in favour of the compulsory retirement of officers on the completion of that period of service, he will take steps to cause the compulsory retirement of the officers referred to, so that the duties of the important positions which they fill may be performed by younger and more vigorous men.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: There are four superintendents and two inspectors of the Dublin Metropolitan Police whose length of service exceeds thirty years. Of these, three have completed thirty years, two thirty-two years, and one thirty-six years of service. The Commission of Inquiry of 1883 made no recommendation.

in favour of the compulsory retirement of officers of the force upon completion of thirty years of service. They are allowed to retire after this period of service, even though they have not attained the age of sixty years; but the Chief Commissioner is authorised to call upon an officer or constable to retire at any time if it be considered desirable in the interests of the service to take this step. The officers to whom reference is made in the question are active, zealous, and effective police officers, and there is no intention of requiring them to retire from the force.

DEM (CAVAN) NATIONAL SCHOOL TEACHER.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Board of National Education, Ireland, has reduced by one-tenth for the past three quarters the grant or salary of Mr. John Galligan, teacher of Dem National School, County Cavan, under the new rule 102 G, which requires that a school must be open at least 200 days in the year, and that Dem School was only open for 181 days; Whether he is aware that the same rule admits exceptions, as, for instance, the school being closed under medical authority to prevent the spread of epidemic disease, or for other unavoidable cause, intimation having been duly given to the Commissioners, and that the unavoidable cause of the closing of Dem School was the illness of Mr. Galligan, and that medical certificates of his inability to attend school were sent in due time to the Board of National Education on the 10th and 25th October, 1898, respectively; and whether he will recommend the Board of Education to reconsider the matter, and grant Mr. Galligan the full amount which, but for his illness, he would have earned and received.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I am informed by the Commissioners that the reduction in salary was really not so large as stated, and that it was fully justified by the circumstances. The normal period of a school year is 46 weeks, or 230 school days, but a liberal allowance of time is given during which a school may be closed owing to exceptional and unavoidable circumstances. The Commissioners state that the rule referred to in the question did not apply in this case. The absence of Mr. Galligan may have

been necessary, but the closing of the school for such an excessive period as 80 school days in 1898 was not unavoidable. The teacher was off duty through illness for two months, and did not, as required by rule, appoint a substitute after one month's absence.

PARSONSTOWN AND PORTUMNA DERELICT RAILWAY.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Government are still prepared to hand over the £12,000 already promised to an eminent contractor, if such can be had, to re-equip the Parsonstown and Portumna derelict Railway, or whether they would advance still further a sum of £6,000; and whether he is aware that Mr. Thomas S. Irwin, C.E., has gone over and thoroughly inspected the line, and his estimate for equipping such as to pass Board of Trade inspector is £23,000, details of which can be furnished if necessary; and also that the Great Southern and Western Railway Company will enter into terms to work the line in perpetuity, and may give a small rent, to be introduced *pro rata* on good permanent traffic.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: Perhaps I may be allowed to answer this question, as I have repeatedly answered others on the same subject. An offer of £12,000 was made by the Government towards the reconstruction of the line some time ago. But no advantage was taken of the offer, which must now be considered as having lapsed. I have no information with regard to the second part of the question.

DUBLIN POLICE COURT DELAY.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he is aware that numerous complaints have been made respecting the frequent delays in the despatch of business in the Northern Division of Police Courts, Dublin; that in very many instances summonses fixed for hearing at 11.30 o'clock a.m. are not reached until late in the afternoon, thus entailing much loss of time to suitors and professional men engaged; and, whether in these circumstances he will consider the desirability of re-arranging the business of both divisions by having all summons cases heard in one court and criminal charges in the other court.

THE ATTORNEY - GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, London-derry, N.): I believe it is true that some complaints have been made of the nature referred to in the first paragraph. The matter is now, I understand under the consideration of the Divisional Magistrates, with whom it rests to make any arrangements necessary for the convenience of the public. I have no authority to interfere, as suggested in the question.

DR. LAMONT.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he has yet come to any decision respecting the grant of compensation to Dr. Lamont on the lines recommended by the jury who acquitted him.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): No decision has yet been come to, but the hon. Member may take it from me that the matter will be dealt with, and that without any undue delay.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 20) BILL.

LONDON, WALTHAMSTOW, AND EPPING FOREST RAILWAY (No. 2) BILL.

DERWENT VALLEY WATER BILL.

CITY AND BRIXTON RAILWAY BILL.

GATESHEAD AND DISTRICT TRAMWAYS BILL.

WEST METROPOLITAN RAILWAY BILL.

BELFAST CORPORATION BILL.

With Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to amend the Companies Acts." [Companies Bill [Lords.]]

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 20) BILL.

Lords Amendments to be considered To-morrow.

KITCHEN AND REFRESHMENT ROOMS (HOUSE OF COMMONS).

Power given to the Select Committee to Report their observations.

Report brought up, and read.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 316.)

VOL. LXXV. [FOURTH SERIES.]

VAGRANTS' CHILDREN PROTECTION

Bill for the further protection of the Children of Vagrants, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Drage, Earl Percy, and Mr. John Burns.

VAGRANTS' CHILDREN PROTECTION BILL.

"For the further protection of the Children of Vagrants," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 299.)

MILITARY WORKS BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

COLONIAL LOANS BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith), in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfarshire): The object of the Amendment I rise to move is to reduce the limits of this Bill. There is a very strong feeling on the part of some Members that this measure has been brought forward under very unusual conditions. In the first place it has been read a second time without the House having any information upon the points which are embraced or the policy proposed to be pursued; in the second place the Bill has been hurried through the House in the most unprecedented manner; and, lastly, the amount is a very large one to be voted away without any information at this time of the session. It cannot be urged in respect of any of the items, except two, that there is any special reason for proceeding with them now rather than six months hence. The difficulties which the Bill is intended to remove have existed for years, and the policy proposed cannot be carried out in six months, and therefore most of the items can very well wait in order that Parliament may give fuller consideration to them than is possible in the last week of the session. Another ground for limiting the Bill to the two cases which I propose is that those cases, being cases of emergency, do not commit us to the principle to which

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the acceptance of the Bill as a whole undoubtedly would commit the House. That principle has never yet been discussed, and for these reasons I press the Amendment upon the consideration of the Committee.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 6, to leave out the words 'the Colonies,' and insert the words 'Barbadoes and St. Vincent.'"—(*Captain Sinclair.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'the Colonies' stand part of the clause."

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (*Stirling Burghs*): I rise for the purpose of making a suggestion to the Government which they may be able to accept. The Secretary of State for the Colonies has just put into our hands a few copies—in fact, they are only proofs—of a Paper containing an explanatory statement of the proposed loans and of the circumstances under which they are sought by the different colonies. Nobody has had time to study this information. I recognise fully that it is meeting our desires to give us the information we require. Our principal complaint has not been that the Bill was necessarily a bad Bill and that these were improper loans, but that the House of Commons was expected to give its assent to these proposals without any information at all. Here is information supplied by Her Majesty's Government, but we have not had time to look at it or digest it. I would suggest that it might possibly lead to a saving of time if progress were reported and the Committee stage resumed to-morrow. I would suggest that my hon. friends should not take advantage of the additional time to manufacture new Amendments or anything of that sort, while probably a good many of these Amendments of which they have given notice would disappear because of the information which has been received. In the meantime the Government might proceed with the Board of Education Bill. In that way no time would be lost, the proper forms would be observed, and an unpleasant disputation avoided.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (*Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.*): I think the suggestion of the right hon. Gentleman has a good deal

Captain Sinclair.

of force behind it, and I entirely appreciate the spirit in which it is made. I admit that the Opposition have an apparent ground of complaint in the fact that the information which the Government has been anxious to supply has been so long delayed. I did not think that the Second Reading of the Bill was a convenient time to give the information; in fact, I was not then aware of the exact nature of the information desired. I thought it probably would be most convenient that it should be given when we came to discuss the schedule. I am informed that a full supply of the Papers will be in the House at eight o'clock, and I am inclined to agree with the right hon. Gentleman that, pending that full delivery, it might be advantageous that the Debate should be adjourned. I will only make one further observation. The hon. Member for Forfar has said there is no urgency about these loans. That is an entire misstatement. The position is a very peculiar one, and one not likely to recur. For two years past the introduction of this new system has been in contemplation, and the country has had notice of the intention to introduce the new system, of which the Colonial Loans Bill is the first step. When a loan is applied for by a Colonial legislature, and sanctioned by the Secretary of State, the Crown agents put the loan on the market. It was introduced as a Treasury Bill and not as a Colonial Bill, and when that was decided the Crown agents ceased to place this loan upon the market. Now they find themselves liable to a demand of £2,000,000 or £3,000,000 sterling, and if those loans were called in a great inconvenience to the public service in the Colonies would be caused. It becomes, therefore, absolutely necessary, whatever may be thought of the principle upon which the Colonial Loans Bill was originally founded, that we must have the money, a large portion of which has been already spent and another large portion of which we have already entered into obligations to pay. When that is done, and this Bill is passed, the Government do not consider that the House will be committed to the principle, and the whole matter will be considered by the Government in the future, and we shall have to determine whether or not it is advisable to abandon this proposal or introduce it again next session, at a period when full time

can be given for its discussion. Hon. Members may rest assured that we shall not consider any concession which they may make now by passing this Bill as more than a reasonable arrangement to deal with a particular emergency, and we shall not consider that they are in any way pledged to the principle of the Colonial Loans Bill.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN :

Perhaps I may be allowed to explain my position upon this question. I am very glad to hear from the right hon. Gentleman that the principle of this Bill is not to be considered as a precedent, and that he sees no early prospect of a large loan of this kind being required. But what I wish to say more particularly is that there are two aspects in which we look at this measure. First of all there are its individual merits, and in the second place there is the fact that it is being hurried through the House. Of course the latter objection arose through lack of information, and it ceases to operate with the information that has now been supplied. But I must not be understood as promising that there will be no criticism upon individual loans and in individual cases. Of that I have no knowledge, and I do not intend making any criticism upon that point. All that this agreement disposes of is what I consider the serious argument against the proceedings of the Government—namely, the circumstances in which the House of Commons is called upon to vote this money.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN : I quite agree with the further explanation of the right hon. Gentleman. I am quite prepared to submit to any criticism upon any particular loan, and I am willing to give any further information which hon. Gentlemen opposite may desire to have. The only point I want to make clear is that the whole of these loans would, in the ordinary way, but for the fact of their introduction by the Treasury, have been settled without coming to this House at all in the usual course, and would have been put upon the market, but they have all been dammed by the delay caused by the introduction of the Bill. If we can get over that difficulty there will be no emergency with regard to any future loan, and the whole policy will be open

to reconsideration by the House. I beg to move that we now report progress.

Committee report progress; to sit again To-morrow.

BOARD OF EDUCATION BILL [Lords].

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the Bill as amended (by the Standing Committee) be now considered."

***VISCOUNT CRANBORNE (Rochester) :**

I do not intend to trouble the House at any length upon the present question, because I fully recognise the desire of the House to pass this Bill, and I am not going to use any undue efforts to resist its passage through the House. As a matter of fact the Bill has had a very remarkable history, and the most objectionable point about it has been the very little information the Government have been able to deliver. The Bill very properly went to a Grand Committee, and it is just one of those Bills that should go to a Grand Committee. But when it got there the proceedings had to be abruptly shortened to get through the necessary work of that Committee. Perhaps, for Parliamentary reasons, the Government did not think it was a very good plan to tell the Committee what were their intentions. I am going to ask the Vice-President of the Council one or two questions which I hope he will answer, as it might perhaps enable us to shorten the discussion further on. As the House is aware, the Bill proposes to transfer or give power to transfer by an Order in Council, the authority and jurisdiction of the Charity Commissioners to the Board of Education. What I am very anxious to find out from the Government is how far they propose, under the new state of things, if the powers are transferred, to reproduce, in any form, the protection which the law gives to these endowments. In the first place the practice is that a local inquiry may be held, and is very often held. Do the Government intend that these local inquiries shall be held in the future?

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (SIR J. GORST, Cambridge University) : Yes.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: Do they intend that those inquiries shall be carried out by persons independently of the responsible Minister? There are certain periods which are allowed to persons to make objections when a scheme is proposed to be made. Very often the persons interested are not able to move very quickly, and a certain amount of negotiations have to take place. I want to know whether the Government intend to allow the usual period which is necessary at the present moment before the scheme can be finally enacted by the Order in Council. I should like to know whether the Government propose to allow the same period of five months to elapse. I also desire some information as to how the Government propose to deal with the judicial work of the Board of Education, because the House will observe that henceforward the Board of Education will have very extensive judicial powers. They will be called upon to decide an enormous number of very difficult and intricate points of law. Are those points of law going to be decided by the ordinary officials of the Education Department, or is there going to be a legal side to the Education Department, as it were, with a particular commissioner, whose business it will be to know the law and have a judicial mind, and be able to give a decision according to the precedents which govern these cases, and according to the accepted principles of the Court of Chancery and the Charity Commission? Leaving Section 2, I want to ask one or two questions about Clause 4. Could the Government now tell us what sort of subjects they propose to refer to the Consultative Committee for their advice? Do they propose to refer the powers now wielded by the Charity Commission to the Consultative Committee? I think it would be possible under the Bill to do so. I apologise to the House for raising all these details, but the Bill contains nothing to guide us, and the Government have given us no information up to now. Under the Bill I think it is possible under Clause 4 for the Government to refer any matter to the Consultative Committee for advice, so that it will be possible to replace the Charity Commission by the Consultative Committee. Then there is another point—is the advice of this Consultative Committee to be public or private advice? I

can quite conceive that private advice might be a very valuable thing on many subjects; but if the advice be public and we have a Minister at the head of the Department, he might be able to shelter his own responsibility behind the advice of the Consultative Committee. Technically he would always be responsible to this House for the decisions given by the Department. We all know that these technicalities have very little value, but the Minister might shelter himself by saying, "My Consultative Committee have decided, and they advise that such a course should be taken, and I can hardly take it upon myself to ignore their advice." In a case of that kind no hon. Member of this House will deny that the power of this House will be very seriously diminished, for hon. Members must remember that the Consultative Committee will not be responsible to this House. I do not know whether the salaries of this Committee will be voted by this House or not.

SIR J. GORST: There are no salaries.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: Then there are no salaries, and therefore there will be no control, except the control which will be exercised by the Minister. I think this is a matter which the House ought to be advised upon. I should like to ask one other question, and it is this—How long do the Government contemplate it will take before the organisation under the Bill is likely to be complete? It is very important for us to know whether this proposal will be carried out before the next General Election or not. Perhaps it is rather uncivil to speak in the presence of the Government of the possibility of their political death, and I do not anticipate it. But, of course, it is possible, and under those circumstances it might happen that all the more delicate and difficult matters which have to be decided by the transfer of these powers would not be decided by the Duke of Devonshire, and by my right hon. friend the Vice-President of the Council, in whom we have the greatest confidence, and these matters may be decided by hon. Members who do not hold the same views as we do on this side of the House. There are such difficult

questions which might arise as the administration of the Endowed Schools Act, which might have to be carried out by another Government. I again apologise to the House for detaining it so long, but I would just like to say another word by way of warning. I want the Committee to realise the magnitude of the interests which are involved. This includes not a small number of Acts of Parliament, but it is a complete Code in itself. During the year 1898 the number of charities dealt with under the Endowed Schools Act shows how much is still going on in the way of re-organising our charities. These charities alone, all of which were dealt with in one year, involve an income of at least £700,000 a year. I think that shows the enormous importance of the interest with which we are dealing under the Endowed Schools Act. Besides these charities there are the charities dealt with under the Charitable Trusts Act, under which 219 charities were dealt with in London by the Charity Commissioners. All these charities are to be henceforward subject to what cannot be essentially a judicial mind, and a body which will not be able to look at the thing from a purely impartial point of view. I just quote these instances to show how important it is that we should have a little more information than has yet been given us, especially upon those points to which I have alluded.

SIR J. GORST: I will reply as clearly and as shortly as I can to the questions put by the noble Lord. My noble friend must remember that this is not a Bill to create new powers. It is merely a measure to transfer from the Charity Commissioners the powers which they hold, and which they exercise, to a new body which will exercise those powers with exactly the same safeguards. Therefore, not only will the Board of Education observe all the restrictions which have been hitherto imposed upon the Charity Commissioners, but they are obliged by law to do this. The noble Lord asks about local inquiries. I may say that the Board of Education must hold local inquiries in the same manner and subject to precisely the same restrictions and safeguards as to the preservation of charities as the Charity Com-

missioners do at present. I suppose that in time to come the inquiries will be held by inspectors under the Education Department. Whether this would meet the noble Lord's idea of what is an independent inquiry I am not able to say. Certainly any inquiries I have to provide will be as independent as possible. With reference to the period of objection, it will be exactly the same as at the present time, the only difference being that if this Bill becomes law the person objecting will make his objection not to the Charity Commissioners but to the Board of Education. The noble Lord said something about judicial work. Every Minister has to exercise some kind of judicial choice. At the present moment under the Education Act, the Technical Instruction Acts, and other Acts of Parliament, a great number of judicial determinations are made by the Education Department, and those *quasi-judicial* decisions are, I am sure, made with the greatest possible care and with the most anxious desire to arrive at true and correct decisions. There is a judicial side to the Education Department, and we have a trained lawyer to whom questions which have a legal bearing are invariably referred. There is no decision ever taken on any legal question without consultation with the proper legal adviser. With regard to the Consultative Committee, that is to be a body which is not in any way to relieve the Minister of Education from his responsibility to this House for everything which is done by the Department. The Consultative Committee will deal with technical questions, such as the framing of regulations which will govern the registration of teachers. In making use of the inspection of any body other than the Universities, the Minister is directed to consult the Committee as to the body whose inspection it is intended to make use of. With regard to what is called technology, the Minister would avail himself of the inspection of the admirable City and Guilds Institute. Before doing so, however, he would consult the Board, and ask them to consider whether the City and Guilds Institute is such a body, and the examinations they conduct are of such a character, as should be properly taken into consideration officially by the Department. Then again, such a question as proposed changes in the curriculum of elementary schools, which is now settled generally by a com-

mittee of *quasi*-experts in the Department itself, may be taken into consideration, as well as the curriculum of schools in the rural districts, which departs in some manner from the curriculum prevailing in the towns.

LORD HUGH CECIL (Greenwich) was understood to ask whether the Consultative Committee would advise as to certain forms of religious teaching, as, for instance, that in the School Board Schools in Liverpool.

SIR J. GORST: I am speaking purely my own opinion, but I would rather be inclined in such a case to consult my hon. and learned friends the Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General, for that is a question of law and of the construction of the Statute. The next question was as to whether the advice given by the Consultative Committee would be published. I should say, in ordinary cases, certainly not. There may be cases in which it might be desirable to publish advice, as, for instance, in the case of the registration of teachers, or a new curriculum drawn up for a particular class of schools. But, as a general rule, the advice given by the Consultative Committee to the Minister would not be published. There is a well-known precedent in the public service. Scarcely a single thing is ever done by the Secretary of State for India with regard to Indian administration without first passing through the Indian Council. Papers are laid before the Committees of the Indian Council before being submitted to the Secretary of State for his decision, but the advice of those Committees is no more published than the advice of the officials in other Departments. Whatever the Committees may have advised it does not in the least relieve the Minister of any responsibility. It is he who is responsible to his colleagues in the Government and to Parliament, and in no case is that responsibility shared by the committee of experts to whom he may have had recourse. The noble Lord asked how long it would be before these changes were completed. That is an extremely difficult question to answer. And he asked about the General Election. I do not know how far off we are from a General Election. I

Sir J. Gorst.

believe this Parliament may last for a couple of years longer. Whether it may last for two or three years is a question which a person in my position cannot possibly answer. All I can say is that due diligence will be exercised in carrying out the powers given to the Board of Education by this Bill. The power given is that of transferring such of the educational functions of the Charity Commissioners as may be convenient to the new Board of Education, but that power is not exhausted until every educational function of the Charity Commission is transferred. I think it would be extremely unwise to transfer the whole *en bloc*. The intention of the Government is to deal with the matters tentatively; they will transfer those powers first of all which are most necessary to carry on the work of the Board of Education, and transfer other powers as they may become necessary, and as experience may show to be useful. I hope the House will not press me further than this. I should think that some powers will never be transferred at all. But how far and how rapidly the powers are to be transferred it is impossible to say. The only object now is to transfer to the Board such powers as are necessary to enable it to act as the central authority for the schools in the country, and this transfer will be effected gradually and as experience shows will be best.

MR. BIRRELL (Fife, W.): I think the curious Debate to which we are listening is a rather disagreeable commentary on the new fashion of legislation by way of skeleton. The noble Lord, who in these matters is a hungry politician, comes here in search of flesh, but fails to find it on the bones of this skeleton. He interrogates the right hon. Gentleman who is in command of the Department as to what he means to do with this Bill when he has got it; but not a single word which the right hon. Gentleman said in reply to the noble Lord either binds him or his successor as to how the law will be administered. The right hon. Gentleman takes a certain view as to what the Consultative Committee may do, and as to how the Endowed Schools Act and the Charity Acts—which are most complicated measures—are to be worked, clause by clause, by the new

Department, regardless of the fact that the mere transference of the powers throws those Acts out of gear, and makes it exceedingly difficult to say how they are to be worked under the general terms of this Bill. The long and the short of the matter is that this Bill gives no information whatever. It simply creates a new Department and hands over to it, without explanation, existing powers now worked by an entirely different body and machinery. The Government, in fact, says: "Pass this Bill in outline, and leave it to the Department to fill up all the details." Of course we all know that the right hon. Gentleman at the head of the Government has patented this new mode of Parliamentary legislation in order to avoid Parliamentary discussion. He drafts a skeleton measure and asks the House of Commons to pass it as a vote of confidence in him, and leaves it to the Department to work it out as best they like. We have seen it in the case of the Light Railways Act. I can only say, without entering into any points of controversy between educationalists on both sides of the House, that this Bill, so far from settling questions of importance, will fling open the door to a great deal of angry controversy as to what is the meaning of such legislation, and what is to be the power in future of the Department to be constituted. It is a new thing that in order to ascertain what this Bill means the noble Lord has to interrogate, not the Legislature, but the man who will hereafter exercise the powers under it. I think that, on the whole, the old-fashioned way of saying in an Act of Parliament what is meant is certainly the better method of legislation.

MR. GRIFFITH-BOSCAWEN (Kent, Tonbridge): I think what has been said by the hon. and learned Gentleman the Member for West Fife is ample justification for what was said by my noble friend. And for this reason. The right hon. Gentleman says that this is a mere transference of old powers to the new Board of Education, and that all the safeguards exercised heretofore by the Charity Commissioners will be exercised by the Board of Education. But what fills us with apprehension is that you are entirely

altering the body which is responsible for this work. You are putting in place of a body which is *quasi-judicial* in its character and entirely independent of Parliament, a new body which is in no sense judicial, and entirely dependent on a Party vote. That is a serious matter, and I think it is only natural that when the matter is brought forward we should ask for more information as to what the functions are which this new body are to carry out. I had the honour myself of serving five years ago on a Select Committee of this House which inquired into the administration of the Charity Commissioners, especially in regard to the transference of these powers; and we had most important evidence laid before us that the Charity Commission was a judicial body transacting work with an inherited jurisdiction from the Court of Chancery, and obliged to construe Acts of Parliament and deeds in a purely judicial way. The strength of the Board was that it was not amenable to Parliamentary pressure, and was altogether independent of this House. Now, you are putting in its place a body which will be dependent on a Party Vote any day during the session. There is, therefore, some ground for our apprehension that, in consequence of the pressure that will be brought to bear in Parliament, the character of the administration may be altered, and charities intended for other purposes may be utilised for educational schemes. I do not wish to interfere with the progress of the Bill, but I join my hon. friend in protesting against the exceedingly indefinite and vague manner in which this Bill has been brought forward, and I express the hope that on the Report stage the right hon. Gentleman will accept Amendments which will safeguard the judicial work now carried on by the Charity Commission.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, South): The objections which have been taken by hon. Gentlemen on the Ministerial side appear to me to be objections that ought to have been taken on the Second Reading. It is too late to raise them now, and to attempt to remedy the defects complained of. It was pointed out when this Bill was debated on the Second Reading that it was practically only a skeleton Bill, and that the whole thing would have to be filled up; that it approached very

difficult questions, on which there was a great deal of controversy, but that it passed them by, and did not attempt to grapple with these difficulties. But the House was desirous to have some Bill; and feeling that the session was advanced; and that there was not much chance of getting anything better, the Bill was given a Second Reading. Accordingly it has gone through the various stages, and received discussion in the Grand Committee, and it is now too late to remedy the defects complained of. We cannot clothe the skeleton with flesh and skin at the present moment; and when the right hon. Gentleman the Vice-President is questioned it is quite impossible for him to give any more definite answer than he has given to the questions put to him. It is quite clear that the Department cannot yet have had time to face all the difficulties which the transfer involves, and even months must elapse before the right hon. Gentleman can say what precise action he can take on these questions. I am glad to find that the Charity Commission has at last begun to gain the confidence of hon. Gentlemen opposite. We have been accustomed to see schemes which the Charity Commissioners have prepared with great care, and produced exactly on the lines which the law laid down, overthrown with very little consideration or regard for the provisions of the law by motions made in this House. But now at last the Charity Commission is receiving its due meed of praise for the impartial and judicial spirit in which it has approached and discharged its duties. I do not think that the new Department to which its duties are transferred will depart from that spirit, because the questions with which it has to deal are mainly questions which would have to be determined with the advice of the law officers; and I do not think there is any reason to suppose that in the discharge of quasi-judicial functions the Education Department would allow itself to be influenced by improper motives any more than the Charity Commission, or than the Board of Trade or the Local Government Board. After all, these religious difficulties happily form a very small part of the administrative questions which the Department will have to deal with.

MR. CRIPPS (Gloucestershire, Stroud): I should like to associate myself with what

Mr. Bryce.

has been said by the hon. and learned Member for West Fife. First of all, however, let me say that many of us who voted for the Second Reading of the Bill did so in the hope that when it came back from the Grand Committee the skeleton would be clothed to a certain extent. But the Bill has come back as naked as when it went upstairs. The Bill, as it stands, is not legislation in the true sense at all. Not a single individual in the House can tell what he is legislating about. I appeal to any Member on either side of the House whether he knows how secondary education is going to be organised in future. The fact is that the House is asked to give a blank cheque to the Education Department, which after all must have a political complexion—there is no harm in saying that either of the Education Department or of the Board of Trade—and when you get a new Ministry it is very likely that you may get an entire change of policy. I go further, and say that you ought to have an entire change of policy. And when you have an organisation of that kind, and when the whole fabric has to be rebuilt, you cannot escape unfortunate political discussions in regard to the methods of secondary education, just as we unfortunately have them in regard to elementary education. In fact, you are introducing into secondary education, which is now almost free from the religious difficulty, and ought to be so free, those very difficulties we have in regard to elementary education. We are certain to discuss what the new President of the Board of Education does. Is it not certain that there would be great differences of opinion as to whether endowments should be used one way or another; and what guarantee is there, after all, in regard to the opinion of the law officers of the Crown? I have the greatest respect for the opinion of the Solicitor-General, and yet we do not desire to put ourselves, bound hand and foot as regards questions of this kind, in the hands of any Department. What are the two points referred to by the hon. and learned Member opposite? Take the speech delivered by the right hon. Gentleman the Vice-President. Do we know what powers are to be transferred from the Charity Commissioners to the Board of Education? Of course not. It is a matter on which the House ought to make up its mind and ought to legislate; but nobody knows

what is intended to be done, and we have not made up our minds as to what is to be done. We simply give a blank cheque to the Education Department, and there will be, hereafter, endless political discussions. Instead of formulating a mere skeleton of this kind—a mere paper scheme—we might have clothed it with a proper body. A great deal undoubtedly in the Bill depends upon the Consultative Committee, but no one knows whether there is to be a Consultative Committee or not, or how it is to be organised—and these points are the very essence of the matter. There is no obligation under this Bill to appoint it at all; there is only power to appoint. And if appointed, no one knows how it is to do its duty. You might have a Consultative Committee which would be of the greatest advantage as regards secondary education; and you might have a Consultative Committee which would do nothing but harm, according to my view, to secondary education. There is a further more extraordinary element as regards this Consultative Committee. Suppose a certain number of gentlemen are appointed on it, does anyone know what the Consultative Committee would do? Is it to be a mere name, a sham, or is it to be a reality? What are its true functions to be? I agree that it is, unfortunately, too late at this stage to attempt to clothe the skeleton in flesh and blood. I believe that this new patent method of legislation ought to be discouraged in every way. I say emphatically we are not doing our duty, and nothing will be worse if we proceed on this principle in the future—namely of giving up our own responsibility and merely throwing a skeleton Bill at the head of a Department, leaving it to be worked out on political lines, according as the head of the Department is chosen from one side of the House or the other. The organisation of secondary education is one of the most important matters in our time, and it should be dealt with fairly and fully by this House.

*MR. J. G. TALBOT (Oxford University): I do not know whether my right hon. friend will make any concession to the suggestions which have been made, or whether he will give us an assurance that this Bill is to be followed up by another Bill. We are rapidly approach-

ing the close of the present Parliament, and it is an exceedingly awkward arrangement if this skeleton Bill, which has been so roughly handled this evening, is not to be completed during the present Parliament by that further measure which will give it life. We have got very little information about this Bill. My right hon. friend the Vice-President of the Council made a very remarkable suggestion when he said, that in certain cases the advice of the Consultative Committee would be submitted to Parliament, and in other cases not; that sometimes the Minister of Education would keep the advice he receives to himself, and at other times it would be made known to the public. I would like to know how. By those communications to the Press which are sometimes conveniently made, or by official documents laid before the House? The whole of this discussion leaves in my mind an uncomfortable feeling, and I join with my hon. friends on both sides of the House in regretting the manner in which this Bill has been brought forward. I do not, however, desire to put any impediment in the way of the passage of the Bill, and would only ask the Government to carefully consider the Amendments which are to be put before them.

*MR. YOXALL (Nottinghamshire, W.): The House seems to have rather a false impression of what this Bill does. The Debate up to the present has consisted almost entirely of complaints and anticipations from one narrow point of view, and has led the House to believe that the Bill deals with secondary education only. The Bill unites in one administration the present authorities, and enables the Charity Commission to decide whether a certain charity is an educational trust or not. It also takes power to inspect secondary schools where the governors of those schools desire to be inspected. Really the Bill has very little to do with secondary education. As to robbing the Charity Commissioners of their powers, I heard the Secretary before the Secondary Education Commission say that all the powers of the Endowed Schools Commission might well be handed over to the Board of Education, and I heard Lord Justice Davey express almost the same idea. The apprehensions which have been expressed are unfounded. The Bill is an

important one, dealing with a wide subject, touching more than one point. It is an essential Bill if the central administration of education is to be improved, and for my part I heartily hope it will be passed.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill as amended considered.

*MR. YOXALL: I move this Amendment for the purpose of securing that the Minister for Education under this Bill should be a Member of the House of Commons. There are obvious reasons for that proposal. It is the House of Commons which provides the money and discusses the Estimates, which sits more frequently and for longer hours than the House of Lords, and exercises the greater part of the control over education. It is therefore important that the Minister for Education should be a Member of the House of Commons. But under this Bill we are not to have necessarily a person of the status even of the Vice-president in this House. The head of the Education Department is the Lord President of the Council, and he receives £2,000 per annum for his Lord Presidency, but receives no salary as the head of the Education Department. This Bill as drawn would perpetuate and crystallise that system, and make it impossible to depart in future from the existing arrangement. The Lord President of the Council has only twice during the last thirty years been a Member of the House of Commons. On one occasion it was Lord John Russell, and on another occasion the Lord President, ten days after his appointment, was translated to the Upper House. It is clear, to my mind, that unless something is done either by an addition to the terms of the Act or by a definite undertaking on the part of those who will have to make this appointment, we shall run a serious risk of having the first President of the Board in the House of Lords, and thenceforward he will always be a Member of that House. I therefore move this Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 8, after the word 'President,' o insert the words 'who shall be a Member of the House of Commons.'"—(Mr. Yoxall.)

Mr. Yoxall.

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR J. GORST: I hope the hon. Member will not press this Amendment. It is quite impossible that we should give any assurance as to who should be the first head of the Board of Education. That is a matter which lies with Her Majesty's advisers, and it would be quite a departure from constitutional practice for any instruction of this kind to be inserted in the Bill.

MR. BRYCE: While I entirely agree with the hon. Member's views in desiring that the Education Minister should sit in this House, I feel there is a great deal of force in the objection urged by the right hon. Gentleman, and I hope the Amendment will not be pressed.

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): In supporting the Amendment, I would remind the Government that when the Board of Agriculture was instituted there was a distinct and definite assurance given that the President should have a seat in the House of Commons. It seems to me, having regard to the much wider and enormously more important interests covered by the Education Bill now before the House, my hon. friend is absolutely justified in insisting that on the constitution of this authority there should be some guarantee given that the responsible Minister who will have to deal with this question should be a Member of the House of Commons. I hope the Amendment will be pressed to a Division as a matter of principle. Having regard to the enormously responsible duty to be discharged, it seems to me the head of the department should be in this House, and capable of being questioned as to the policy of the department.

MR. ERNEST GRAY (West Ham, N.): I am in fullest sympathy with the object the hon. Member has in view, but I venture to hope he will not press the Amendment to a Division, because the result will not represent the true feelings of the House. There would be a large number who would not be able to vote for the Amendment, on the ground that it is contrary to the usual constitutional

practice to insert in a statute a provision which would limit the discretion of those who in future will advise her Majesty in appointing a Minister of State. At the same time, I regret that there should be a suggestion in the clause that in future the chief of this great department will sit in the House of Peers, and not in the House of Commons. This department must become one of the great spending departments of the State. Of necessity the amount of money which Parliament will have to vote in connection with education will year by year increase, and I do not think the House of Commons will be content to see the Board of Education represented in this House as the Post Office at present is, with the actual and responsible Minister in the House of Lords. But, although holding these views, for the reason I have given I do not think it would be wise to go to a Division.

MR. HUMPHREYS-OWEN (Montgomery): I feel as strongly as anyone the desirability of having the Minister in charge of this most important department in the House of Commons. We are spending about £8,000,000 a year on education, but the system, as every expert knows, is of a deplorably inefficient character, and the only way in which we can get it reformed and made worthy of the country will be by subjecting the department to the constant criticism of the House of Commons. For the reasons which have already been given, however, I hope we shall not divide upon the Amendment. If such a Division took place many Members would abstain, and we should go into the lobby with an extremely small minority, the result of which would be that next year, if we complained that the Minister of Education was in the House of Lords, we should be told that the proposal that he should be a Member of this House was rejected by an enormous majority.

***MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS** (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield): Whether we divide or not, I wish to give my support to the principle involved in this Amendment. We have an illustration of the inconvenience resulting from the head of a department being in the House of Lords in the case of the Post Office.

Unless the principle of the Amendment is adopted we shall be in a similar position of inconvenience with regard to the Board of Education. Ministers who have to deal with questions in which the great masses of the people are deeply interested should have seats in this House, so as to sit face to face with the real representatives of the people—which the Peers are not.

MR. YOXALL: As my object was to ventilate this question, I do not propose to take a Division, and by the leave of the House I will withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

***SIR WILLIAM ANSON** (Oxford University): I desire to move the Amendment on the Paper on behalf of the hon. Member for Hertford. I understand he intended to move it, not in any great expectation that the Government would add the words to the Bill, but in the hope of getting some assurance about a matter concerning which we were in doubt with regard to the constitution of the department under the Bill. He wished to ensure that Secondary Education would be represented as well as Technical and Elementary Education.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, at the end of Clause 1, to insert the words, ‘(6) There shall be established under the Board three separate Departments for Secondary, Technical, and Elementary Education respectively.’” — (*Sir William Anson.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

SIR J. GORST: The Committee of Council had formerly two separate departments, but the system was found to be extremely inconvenient, and the two departments are now amalgamated into one. It would, therefore, be a very unfortunate thing if Parliament were to saddle the new Board of Education with the obligation to have three departments. I understand the Lord President of the

Council has given a pledge that there shall be a third additional secretary who shall discharge certain functions, either in connection with some of the secondary schools or some of the subjects that are taught in secondary schools. What these precise functions are has not yet been determined, and cannot well be determined until the organisation of the Department for carrying out the Bill is more advanced. I hope my hon. friend will not ask for any pledge beyond that which has been already given by the Lord President of the Council.

MR. BRYCE: The object of the mover of the Amendment was to obtain an assurance from the Vice-President that the interests of secondary education should be duly and fully considered when the Department comes to be organised. The right hon. Gentleman has said something pointing that way, but I think he might have given an assurance of a more ample character, which would have tended to remove the uneasiness existing in many quarters outside. It is very important that we should carry with us the masters, especially of the great public schools, who have so frankly and cordially intimated their wish to come under the Bill, and to help the working of it by opening their schools to examination and inspection. They had some uneasiness lest the Education Board should not be provided with a staff suited to deal with the question of secondary education, and they had a fear, in particular, that scientific education would be divorced from secondary education in general. The whole object of the reform of the educational system is not to divorce scientific education from literary education, but to bring them into an organic relation to one another, and so to organise the Department, that whoever looks after secondary education should look after it in all its sides, and that the secondary and technical departments should be in the closest possible touch and connection. I do not think that scientific education should be relegated to what might be called the technical department; it ought to be regarded as part of a general liberal education. The technical work, although in a measure scientific, ought not to absorb the whole of the scientific teaching, neither ought scientific teaching to be divorced

from the work of the assistant secretary for secondary education. I understand that what I have stated is the object of my hon. friend in moving this Amendment, and I desire to express our sympathy with that object, and the hope that when the Education Department comes to be organised, it will be organised upon such lines as are desired by the friends of secondary education outside.

MR. JEBB (Cambridge University): My right hon. friend, the other day, answered a question upon this point, and his reply seemed to be perfectly satisfactory. He said that secondary education would be represented in the organisation of the Education Office by an assistant secretary, distinct from, and not subordinate in official status to, the Assistant Secretaries who have charge respectively of elementary education and of the Science and Art Department. I do not understand that there is anything in the reply he has just given which is inconsistent with the former statement. I conceive that when the future Education Office is fully organised, the section which more specially represents secondary education will have a staff of its own, selected with a view to the inspection and examination and general supervision of the secondary schools, more particularly on the literary side, and that all the resources which are at present at the disposal of the Science and Art Department will also be available to the Education Office for the purpose of testing the scientific portion of the work done in secondary schools. If I am correct in that supposition, I should concur with my right hon. friend opposite in recommending my hon. friend the Member for the University of Oxford not to press the Amendment.

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: My hon. friend has specified two matters upon which a distinct reply was hoped for—one as to the status of the third assistant secretary, and the other as to whether his functions were to be entirely confined to secondary education. I am not quite sure whether the reply of the Vice-President was what was wanted on either point. He did not say that the status of the third assistant secretary would be equal to that of

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the other two, and he used rather ambiguous words as to the functions. He said that this assistant secretary would have a certain section of the subject to look after. Does that mean that a part of secondary education will be dealt with by another assistant secretary, or that this assistant secretary will have other functions besides secondary education? Either would be consistent with my right hon. friend's answer; but what I understand the representatives of the two universities to desire is, that this third assistant secretary should be of equal status with the others, and should be distinctly set apart to look after secondary education.

MR. HUMPHREYS-OWEN: I would like to support the request for a clearer statement from the right hon. Gentleman. There is an apprehension lest the methods adopted with regard to elementary education, which the elementary educationalists themselves are now recognising as inadequate and inefficient, should be applied to secondary education, and there is also a fear lest the literary side of secondary education should suffer in comparison with the technical. I think the true way of allaying these apprehensions, and, at the same time, bringing about that desired unity between the different branches of education, will be by providing an assistant secretary of at least equal status with the others, who would have special regard to secondary education. In that way, I think, we shall find, as is being found now in many secondary schools, that the literary and technical subjects are by no means so entirely divorced from one another as has been believed.

SIR E. CLARKE (Plymouth): I think some definite answer should be given from the Front Bench, if not by the right hon. Gentleman, at least by one of his colleagues, to what is a very specific request. It is bad enough to have to pass a Bill like this, of which no one understands the result, but we certainly ought to have some information as to the organisation of the Department. I learn from my hon. friend the Member for Cambridge University that he understood a promise had been made that there should be a third under secretary, and that the third

under secretary should be in an equal position with the other two, and have special duties with regard to secondary education. If that pledge has been given there will be no harm in its being repeated.

SIR J. GORST: I can only repeat again my belief that that is exactly what I said in reply to my right hon. friend the Member for Oxford University. I said that a pledge had been given that there should be a third assistant under secretary; that he should be of equal status to the other assistant secretaries; and that he would have functions to perform in connection with secondary education. But it is quite impossible at this stage to state with precision what those functions would be.

SIR W. ANSON: I withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*MR. J. G. TALBOT: I rise to move the Amendment which stands in my name. I have the best reason for believing that it has the sympathy of my right hon. friend, because when I recently moved an Amendment similar to this in the Grand Committee my right hon. friend supported me by his vote. That Amendment to my regret, and, I think, also to his regret, was not carried, and I thought that it was only respectful to the House that I should give hon. Members an opportunity of reconsidering the Amendment I suggested on this important subject. I do not intend to detain the House by making a long speech on this question, but I would remind the Government that this is a matter which has had a very conspicuous history. The question which is embodied in Section 19 of the Endowed Schools Act, 1869, was one of those compromises which we very often come to in this House on a very thorny and difficult subject. The working of the section has been difficult, but, on the whole, satisfactory. It has taken away from the arena of religious controversy, to which we are so much accustomed in this House, a large number of endowments; but, of course, it has left, first to the Endowed Schools Commissioners, and afterwards to the Charity Commission, a great

amount of *quasi-judicial* authority. We are now proposing by this Bill to transfer these functions to a body which must be by the very nature of things a political body. The Board of Education of the future is to be presided over by a Minister of Education. That Minister of Education must be a member of the Government, dependent, of course, upon the support of the majority in this House, and on whichever side that majority rests, it must in the nature of things be a political majority, and any action that that Minister takes must be—though I have no desire to speak disparagingly of the Minister—political action. And when his decisions are challenged, he must, speaking generally, be supported by the majority on which the Government subsists. To remove religious bitterness from the decision of matters of this kind I contend that it would be wiser, in the interests not only of the Church of England, but of education, to keep the functions I have mentioned in the hands of a body which, after all, is of a *quasi-judicial* character, and which can be challenged without any detriment to the Ministry of the day.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 1, after the word 'Commissioners,' to insert the words 'other than the power of determining whether an endowment is within the exceptions specified in Section 19 of The Endowed Schools Act, 1869, as amended by The Endowed Schools Act, 1873.'"—(*Mr. Talbot.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR J. GORST: As the right hon. Member says, I supported an Amendment of the same character as that now proposed in the Standing Committee, as did my right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer; but our proposal was opposed on the ground that it would be a slur on the Board of Education to deprive it of the power of taking, if it thought fit, this particular function of the Charity Commission into its own hands. I sympathise with my right hon. friend, but the Government are not able in this House to support an Amendment which would reverse the decision of the Standing Committee.

MR. SYDNEY GEDGE (Walsall): I am very sorry to hear the decision an.

Mr. J. G. Talbot.

nounced by my right hon. friend. He appears to think that the Board of Education might feel that some slur was cast upon them if they were deprived of the power of taking this particular function away from the Charity Commissioners. The whole point is this. Under a particular section of the Act of 1869 the question arises whether certain endowments do or do not come within that section. Such questions are decided by the Charity Commissioners. The Charity Commissioners are not a political or removable body; they go on from year to year acting together as a body corporate. They give their decisions on precedents, and those decisions are as legal as if the questions were decided by the Vice-Chancellor or a judge of the Supreme Court. In this respect I believe the Charity Commissioners have always had the confidence of hon. Members on this side. Any want of confidence in the Charity Commissioners has not been due to the fact that they were not acting judicially, but that they were acting as creators and framers of new schools. It does not follow that we are inconsistent because we do not wish to transfer to the Board of Education—a political body—a judicial power. It seems to me that we are perfectly consistent in what we are doing. We are glad that the Charity Commissioners lose the power of framing new schemes, and that it is to be entrusted to the Board of Education. But we do certainly regret and object altogether to the present proposal, and our objection was evidently shared by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and my right hon. friend below me, the Minister of Education, because they voted the other way in the Standing Committee. We submit that the judicial functions ought not to be handed over to a political body, where no precedent will be a guiding precedent and where the Minister of the day may give a decision one way, while the Minister who succeeds him and who belongs to another political party, may, under political pressure, decide that the same form of words may mean something totally different. I hope, therefore, the Government will reconsider their decision.

MR. CRIPPS: I should like to say a word or two on the legal character of the functions which are at the present time

exercised by the Charity Commission, and which it is proposed to hand over to the Education Department. At the present time all decisions given under Section 19 of the Endowed Schools Act, 1869, and the Endowed Schools Act, 1873, are given as judicial decisions, and not as they might be in the case of a new Board of Education on administrative or on political grounds. The right hon. Gentleman the Vice-President says that he agrees with the contention which we now seek to urge on the Government. But surely, having regard to the extreme importance of the Bill, we ought on an occasion of this kind to support the view originally taken without regard to what has passed in the Standing Committee. After all, in a Standing Committee we do not get the same representation of opinion as we do in the House of Commons itself. There ought to be a distinction between administrative matters and questions of judicial interpretation. We are only asking the right hon. Gentleman to support those Members in this House who think he was right in the attitude he took when the Bill was being discussed before the Standing Committee. I certainly hope that the Government will support the views of the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Vice-President, because, to my mind, this is one of the most vital features of the Bill.

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: I have only one word to say upon this question. This is a very important Amendment, and I do not think the House or the Government fully realise how difficult the position is with regard to Section 19. That is not my own statement merely. I am only repeating the views of the Vice-President, and now these matters are to be handed over to a new Department. I would ask the Government to remember that the new Board might be under the control not of Unionists or Conservatives, but of their political opponents, to whom would be transferred the decision of the religious and other issues arising under this difficult and important question of the Endowed Schools Act. I hope my right hon. friend will not think it is altogether unreasonable to press this Amendment.

MR. WILLIAM JONES (Carnarvonshire, Arfon): I do not see that this question is, after all, a very important one, taking

only this Bill into consideration. The question, however, may become a very important one, say next year, when you discuss the question of local authority. This Bill does not provide any local authority to deal with this question at all; it is a simple Bill to take stock of what schools you have already in the country. Apart from that, several great authorities have given it as their opinion that the transfer of these powers would be a very simple matter. Lord Davey has already been quoted, but I would quote the authority of the Charity Commissioners, who said that there would be no difficulty at all in transferring these quasi-judicial functions to the new Board. The final decision as to what constitutes an endowment as educational will not rest with the Board of Education; but with the Charity Commissioners. I therefore think the question raised is not such a very important one after all, seeing that next year we shall have a Bill dealing with the question of local authority and the creation of new schools. Consequently I cordially support the view of the Government, and the view that has been taken up by the Standing Committee upstairs.

MR. GRIFFITH - BOSCAWEN: I really do not understand what the question of local authority has to do with this Amendment. The hon. Member opposite seems to rely largely upon the fact that some other Bill is to be brought in next year. Does he know that another Bill is to be brought in? We have not had an assurance from the Minister in charge of the Bill that a Bill is to be brought in next year.

MR. WILLIAM JONES: If there is no Bill to come in next year, what is the need for any alarm?

MR. GRIFFITH - BOSCAWEN: Because you can transfer under this Bill without any Bill at all, Sir. What we object to is that we do not know whether this transfer is to take place this year, next year, or the year after. I really must protest against the position we find ourselves in at the present moment. On this point the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill confesses he is a supporter of the Amendment, and not only so, but he voted for it himself in the Standing Committee. So did the Chancellor of the

Exchequer. Because the Standing Committee came to a decision adverse to this Amendment, and because apparently some decision has been taken elsewhere, the House is to be bound absolutely by the decision of the Standing Committee. I protest entirely against that. It is simply making Standing Committees dominate this House altogether. I had not the advantage of being on the Standing Committee, and I protest most emphatically against being given away by the decisions of the Standing Committee. We have heard something to-night about skeleton Bills. If skeleton Bills are to be brought in and discussed only by the Standing Committee, and if the decision of the Standing Committee, although contrary to the opinion of the Minister in charge, is to be upheld, we are reduced to an extraordinary position of affairs. I protest against the decision that the Government have taken up.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir R. B. FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): Like my noble friend, I was not a member of the Committee, but he and others who have spoken in support of the Amendment appear to have overlooked the nature of the question which will come up for consideration under the section. I should like to inform the House as to what that question is. The question is "whether by the terms of the instrument of foundation or the statutes made by the founder or under his authority in his lifetime, or fifty years after his death, the scholars are to be instructed in any particular religious tenets, or the members of the governing body are to belong to any particular religious body." That is the question, and is it conceivable that any Minister would decide a matter of that kind from any political or party motives?

SIR E. CLARKE: Yes, certainly.

SIR R. B. FINLAY: I do not agree with my hon. and learned friend behind me in that view of the discharge of

Ministerial duties, and I ask the House whether we may not rely just as much upon the judicial faculty being brought to bear upon that question by the new Board as by the Charity Commission. Every decision of this kind involves a question of fact and of law, which has to be determined under competent advice. What Minister would be so foolish and so wicked as to give a wrong decision upon matters of that kind, when he knows there are two checks upon him? In the first place, an appeal lies to the Privy Council, and in what position would he find himself when, having decided wrongly, his decision was reversed by the Privy Council? And, secondly, when such a scheme was brought before either House they could either throw it out or so amend it that it would be found expedient to drop it and introduce a new one. With those checks, is it conceivable that any Minister, however weak or wicked, would be guilty of the conduct which some hon. Members affect to think possible?

MR. ERNEST GRAY: If I had felt that religious endowments were going to be placed in jeopardy by this power I should at once vote against it, but I cannot resist the conclusion that this transfer of powers will be altogether advantageous. In the working out of these schemes the ultimate decision will rest with responsible Ministers, and if the moral tone of any Minister is so low that he is likely to bring in any scheme from political motives we may be sure that the rank and file of his party will not support him in so nefarious a practice. In my opinion religious education runs no danger whatever from the transfer of these powers, and, on the other hand, it is desirable that the Board should be invested with the widest power and responsibility, and the reign of divided authority put a stop to.

The House divided:—Ayes, 22; Noes, 142. (Division List, No. 323.)

AYES.

Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brookfield, A. Montagu
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Clarke, Sir E. (Plymouth)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Flower, Ernest

Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbs, Hn. A.G.H. (City of Lon)
Gilliat, John Saunders
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas-Shadwell, William
Macaleese, Daniel
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)

Northcote, Hon. Sir H. S.
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Talbot and Sir John
Kennaway.

Mr. Griffith-Boscawen.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Arnold, Alfred
 Arrol, Sir William
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manc'r)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
 Barnes, Frederic Gorell
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
 Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Billson, Alfred
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Burns, John
 Butcher, John George
 Caldwell, James
 Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbs.)
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.)
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Clough, Walter Owen
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Cox, Irwin E. Bainbridge
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
 Dewar, Arthur
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Donkin, Richard Sim
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edwd.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne

Firbank, Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. George's)
 Gourley, Sir E. Temperley
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert W.
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
 Hazell, Walter
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Hedderwick, Thomas Chas. H.
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Hogan, James Francis
 Holland, W. H. (York, W. R.)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
 Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hn. Sir U.
 Kilbride, Denis
 Knowles, Lees
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning-(Corn)
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lockwood, Lieut. Colonel A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverp'l)
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 M'Arthur, C. (Liverpool)
 M'Killop, James
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
 Monk, Charles James

Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Moss, Samuel
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Oldroyd, Mark
 O'Malley, William
 Perks, Robert William
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Russell, T. W. (Tyronne)
 Sidebottom, William (Derbysh)
 Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strutt, Hon. Chas. Hedley
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
 Tritten, Charles Ernest
 Ure, Alexander
 Usborne, Thomas
 Valentia, Viscount
 Wallace, Robert
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Williams, Joseph Powell-(Birm.)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid.):

I beg to direct attention to the fact that forty Members are not present.

*MR. SPEAKER: I am satisfied from the result of the recent Division that a quorum is in attendance.

SIR JOHN KENNAWAY (Devonshire, Honiton): The Amendment I have to move is to insert after "Commissioners" in Clause 2, page 2, line 1, the words "except as hereinafter provided." I think the words are necessary, because a few lines further down there is a provision preventing certain powers from being transferred.

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Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 1, after the word 'Commissioners,' to insert the words 'except as hereinafter provided.'"—(Sir John Kennaway.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR J. GORST: I do not think these words are necessary, because every section of an Act of Parliament is read subject to any proviso it may contain. In this clause there is a proviso already.

SIR JOHN KENNAWAY: As the right hon. Gentleman says the Amendment is

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unnecessary, I will ask leave to withdraw it.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CRIPPS: The Amendment standing in my name requires a short explanation. The words in the Bill are "appearing to Her Majesty to relate to education." That means that the Education Department would be absolutely supreme in determining any question as to what was a matter of education in reference to which powers should be transferred from the Charity Commissioners to the Board of Education. The Bill extends enormously the powers of departmental interference as against the ordinary legislative business of this House, but on this point it seems to me the bureaucratic element is extended without any due warrant at all. If this Amendment be accepted, any question as to whether a particular matter relates to education will be decided by a judicial authority. From a constitutional point of view this right ought to be preserved. The words inserted are certainly unusual, though I do not say they are without precedent, and the justification I have heard from the Solicitor-General and the Vice-President was that unless they were retained, there would be a chance of litigation as to whether powers should not devolve on the Department. In my opinion it is very important that questions of this sort should be decided by the Courts, however inconvenient it may be to a Government Department. It is only the ordinary right which every person has as regards any matters which affect his interests to see by the decision of the courts that the intention of the Legislature is being carried out. That is really the essence of the case. The argument advanced that you may otherwise have litigation really means that you ought to make the Department absolutely tyrannical. It is only natural that the Board of Education should have a tendency to increase its powers by transfer from the Charity Commissioners. If the Board is to have absolute discretion in deciding these matters the House will lose its control altogether. It is not right that the Department to which certain powers are to be transferred should have the absolute right of deciding what powers are included in the definition, and if this principle is extended it will take away the essence of

Sir John Kennaway.

liberty either as regards institutions or the individual.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 2, to leave out the words, 'appearing to Her Majesty to relate,' and insert the word 'relating'—(*Mr. Cripps*)—instead thereof."

Question proposed, "That the words 'appearing to Her Majesty to relate' stand part of the Bill."

SIR R. B. FINLAY: It seems to me that my hon. and learned friend has lost all sense of proportion on this question. It is not for the Board of Education to decide what matters relate to education, but for Her Majesty in Council, and the Board have nothing to do with the matter until the Order has been made in Council. The effect of the Amendment would be to lame the measure completely. An Order in Council might be made and pass unchallenged for years; and yet it would be possible for anyone who alleged it to be *ultra vires* to take the question into Court, and possibly have the Order upset. I venture to think that legislation on such lines would not be in accordance with common-sense, and I could not imagine any suggestion more calculated to introduce doubt and difficulty into the working of the Bill.

SIR E. CLARKE: I really think that the Solicitor-General is a little too peremptory. What does the advice "of Her Majesty's Council" in this case mean? It means that the Lord President of the Council, who is not unconnected with the Board of Education, will suggest the form of the Order, and then it will be made. The idea that the Lord Chancellor and the other members of the Council will meet to consider the subject and advise Her Majesty, is not in accordance with practice. The Bill provides that an Order in Council once made closes the door against any appeal. I confess I think the Amendment a wise one, as Orders may be made, even by ideal Ministers, which are not in accordance with sound judgment. I therefore hope that these words will be accepted.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON: I understand, though I do not share, the opinion of my hon. and learned friend the Member for Stroud that educational progress will be advanced by frequent recourse to courts of law. Let me ask the House to consider what the position is. The Bill simply provides that matters appearing to Her Majesty to relate to education may be transferred from the Charity Commissioners to the Education Department; the Charity Commissioners are to determine whether an endowment or any part of an endowment is educational. Surely the opinion of two such bodies, both skilled in educational matters, one claiming, the other conceding the control of an endowment, should suffice. If, after the Order in Council is made, the matter is taken before the High Court, perhaps ultimately to the House of Lords, much inconvenience and expense will be occasioned in order to arrive at a conclusion not really more satisfactory than that previously arrived at by the Departments concerned. There seems to be an assumption that the Education Office will deliberately endeavour to appropriate endowments which are not educational, or to render undenominational endowments which are denominational. I decline to believe that the Department is such a formidable and malignant power, or that the Charity Commissioners would connive at such action. If such things were to happen there are Members in this House who would exert a correcting influence on the representatives of the two Departments, and I will not believe that those to whom the education of the country is entrusted are capable of such petty frauds.

LORD HUGH CECIL: We have heard the Solicitor-General, who has nobly fulfilled the duty of his office in attempting to defend what is essentially indefensible. We have all observed that when the Government has a specially weak case they call upon their Law Officers to defend it. The Solicitor-General had recourse to an interesting disquisition on the work-

ing of the Constitution, and he drew a picture of the Privy Council, the details of whose constitution he did not enter upon, whose duty apparently was to advise the Crown as if we lived in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and the hon. and learned Gentleman urged that we might rely on the Crown acting with perfect impartiality. But we know very well that the Privy Council is merely another name for the Government of the day. I should like to draw a picture, putting in a few names. Let the House suppose that the hon. Member for the Carnarvon Boroughs was President of the Board of Education, that the hon. Member for the Launceston Division of Cornwall was Lord Chancellor, and that some noble Lord in the other House was Lord President of the Council. Let us suppose that a meeting of the Cabinet Council took place, and one Member would say to the other, "Here is an educational matter of some importance." The hon. Member for Carnarvon Boroughs would say that it was properly a power relating to education which ought to be transferred, and that he would be glad if one of his colleagues looked into the matter and gave it his attention, but he had no doubt as to the propriety of the transaction. Let the House also suppose that the other members of that Cabinet were looking into the question. Is it really contended by anyone outside a lunatic asylum that this question would have an impartial consideration? If my hon. friend the Member for Oxford University has such touching confidence in the Government of the day that it would never do such a thing—never misuse the powers confided to it—how does he account for the fact that Parliament has again and again rejected schemes which have passed the Charity Commission and the Education Department? Many of these questions are exceedingly perplexing. Often the intentions of the pious benefactor are perfectly well known. It is seen that he must have been intending his endowment to be used for the benefit of the Church of

England, because in the days in which he lived there was no other form of religious teaching. If the intention is not embodied in a trust deed and considered as a Church of England endowment it is only the equitable consideration of Parliament that can rescue it. Are we to be asked to put such confidence in matters of this kind in the Government of the day—which may be a Government of the most bitter anti-Church feeling, and there is no feeling so strong as that which the Church of England excites—as to leave it absolutely to their decision, without recourse to a court of law where we should obtain impartial consideration? The Solicitor-General had the audacity to put forward the view that if we went to a court of law the Government would probably be beaten. It requires the experience of a practised barrister to make a declaration at which the ordinary person would not be able to restrain a not unnatural blush. On the contention put before the House I think there is a clear case in favour of the Amendment. There is, of course, no chance of carrying it, but those who study the reports of Parliament will see how this Bill is being carried through the House, and will form an estimate of how far this new Department is to be trusted.

SIR J. GORST: The noble Lord is entirely mistaken as to the object of these Orders in Council. There is no question of seizing endowments. The Orders are simply to transfer from the Charity Commissioners to the Board of Education certain powers relating to education, which are to be exercised by the Board of Education under precisely the same restrictions, safeguards, and limitations as at present apply to the Charity Commissioners. It is very desirable that an Order in Council of this kind, which transfers powers from one administrative Department to another, should not be subject to legal contention, possibly years after the transfer has been carried out, and really the safeguards proposed by this clause are perfectly satisfactory. If

Lord Hugh Cecil.

there is a case where there is some doubt as to whether an endowment does or does not relate to an educational matter, it is quite clear that such an Order in Council would not be passed by the Education Minister without reference to his colleagues. Then when it is passed it is laid on the Table of this House, and I am sure that a Government which lent itself to passing an Order in Council transferring a power which ought not to be transferred, would receive very sharp criticism, whichever party was in a majority.

*MR. YOXALL: After the exhibition we have had to-night, we should be justified in holding some suspicion as to the value of legal *expertise*. It is obvious that there is no substantial foundation for the attack which has been made upon this clause, or for moving the Amendment at all. In the first place, it is decided whether or not an endowment is educational, and then comes the question of who should carry out the work connected with it. The Charity Commission may make a scheme; the Board of Education may make a scheme; the Charity Commission may inspect the working of their schemes, the Board of Education may inspect the working of their schemes. The Charity Commission now do their work subject to legal appeal, the Board of Education will do their work subject to legal appeal. There is no real foundation for the Amendment.

MR. CRIPPS: I beg leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

SIR JOHN KENNAWAY: When we came to consider this Bill, and found that it practically gave an entirely free hand to the Government of the day to transfer powers up to now held by the Charity Commissioners to the Education Board,

and that Parliament was asked to give sanction to this Bill without knowing what these powers are that are to be transferred, I felt it was a very serious departure, and more especially as neither House of Parliament has power to interfere with the Order in Council if it is passed by this Government or by any other. I have put down this Amendment in order to show, in the first place, the character of the powers that would probably and almost certainly be transferred under this Bill. The Amendment refers to what is at present entirely in the discretion and power of the Charity Commissioners, viz., any question as to interpretation or construction of any instrument regulating an educational endowment. This power was conferred on the Charity Commissioners by the Court of Chancery, and it should not be taken away from a *quasi-judicial* body which is entirely independent of Party, and put into the hands of a department under a member of the Government of the day, whose actions might be influenced by political exigencies. It has been said that Governments are naturally affected by the strong pressure brought to bear on them from time to time by supporters who hold very strong views. Parliament ought certainly to have some voice as to what powers should be transferred.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 9, after the word 'purposes,' to insert the words: '(b) Any question as to the interpretation or construction of any instrument regulating an educational endowment.'"—(*Sir John Kennaway.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR J. GORST: The Bill gives power to transfer powers from the Charity Commissioners to the Board of Education with one single exception, and it is for the House to say whether there should be another. Why should not the Board of

Education have power to decide where the Charity Commissioners now decide? It may be necessary for the Board to come to a decision in order to frame a scheme, and the House should remember that there will be exactly the same right of appeal, and the same restrictions, as now obtain in regard to the Charity Commissioners.

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: I desire to say a word in support of the Amendment of my right hon. friend. Everyone knows the difficulty of arriving at a satisfactory decision as to what is a charitable or educational endowment. Two cases have been decided, but there must be an enormous number of cases lying in between, which will require very careful legal opinion. The right to make such a decision ought not to be handed over to the Education Department. It is said that there will be the right of appeal, but how many hon. Gentlemen know how much it would cost? I happen to know that one appeal cost upwards of £200 to the parties who were successful in both courts. An appeal is no true remedy, and therefore it is desirable that such decisions should be reserved for a really judicial body. I am sorry the Government cannot accept the Amendment.

MR. BRYCE: This Amendment refers solely to educational endowments, not to cases concerning ecclesiastical endowments, which were mentioned by the noble Lord. I do not see how it would be possible for the Board of Education to deal with these charities unless it had this power of interpretation and construction. Otherwise the action of the Board would be paralysed, because, when a case turned up, they would have to send over to the Charity Commissioners. Why should the Charity Commissioners be any better authority than the Board of Education? The Board will have legal advice; they will be able to call upon the law officers of the Crown, which the Charity Commis-

sioners are not able to do; and I cannot see why the Board should not be just as capable of arriving at a judicial interpretation as the Charity Commissioners. If the Board are deprived of this power, it will be a considerable slur upon them, and they will be impeded in the work of their office. I was surprised a little by the remarks of the noble Lord the Member for Greenwich. He seems to think that the Board of Education will desire nothing so much as to find out and concern themselves with the most complex controversies. When the noble Lord comes to be a Minister, as no doubt he will—his abilities entitle him to expect it—he will find that one of the chief desires of a Minister is to avoid putting his hands into hornets' nests, and that he will desire to avoid those legal controversies, and adhere as far as he can to the law as laid down by the courts, and to act in conformity with that sense of fairness which I hope characterises public departments as it does this House. I cannot see any ground for apprehension that the Board of Education, in the hands of one political Party or the other, will seek to prevent justice. The Education Department under the Endowed Schools Act has already a great deal to do with these schemes, and I do not remember a single instance in which an attack was made on the Department in connection with them. Sometimes, in one House or the other, a particular scheme may have been debated, but the Department has never been accused of trying to act unfairly, and I cannot see the least ground for apprehension in giving the Board the power of which the Amendment would deprive it.

MR. SYDNEY GEDGE: All the arguments which apply to this Amendment were put forward without effect on a previous Amendment. I hope, therefore, my right hon. friend will not press it to a Division. It seems to me an undignified spectacle that the only support in argument which the Government receives comes from the Opposition. The difference between a highly civilised and a semi-barbarous State is, that in the former the judicial functions are kept apart from the executive functions, while in the latter the judicial functions are handed over to the executive. I regret that the Government, by refusing to accept this Amendment, have driven us into

the position of a semi-barbarous State. On the whole, however, the Bill is a very good one, notwithstanding this defect, and as we have indicated our opinion by dividing on a previous Amendment involving the same principle, I think this Amendment ought to be withdrawn and the Bill proceeded with.

Question put and negatived.

SIR JOHN KENNAWAY: We have been accused of being suspicious on this side of the House, but when we are kept in the dark and asked to give an absolutely blank cheque we are naturally a little suspicious. The Amendment I now move is to add on page 2, line 9, after "Commissioners," the following:—

"Powers to make a scheme for an educational endowment under the provisions of the Charitable Trusts Act of 1860."

These are matters of very great interest. The schemes do not come before Parliament at all, and the appeal from them is not to the Privy Council but to the Court of Chancery, and the court can only decide whether or not it is a case of absolute illegality; it is allowed no discretion as to the merits. This power is capable of very injurious application to Church education, and I therefore move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 9, after the word 'Commissioners,' to insert the words, 'Provided also that the existing power to make a scheme for an education endowment, under the provisions of the Charitable Trusts Act of 1860, shall remain with the Charity Commissioners.'"—
(*Sir John Kennaway.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be inserted."

SIR J. GORST: This Amendment is even more objectionable than the other, and to adopt it would be to deprive the Board of Education of the power of dealing with those endowments exempted from the Endowed Schools Act, and also with educational endowments given since 1869. There are some educational endowments capable of being dealt with under the Endowed Schools Act, or the Charit-

Mr. Bryce.

able Trusts Act of 1860, and it is quite possible that the Charity Commissioners under the Act of 1860 and the Board of Education under the Endowed Schools Act, would each draw up a scheme for one endowment, which would obviously lead to confusion in the administration of the educational affairs of the country.

Amendment by leave, withdrawn.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley): A great deal has been said about the looseness of the language employed in this Bill, but most of the criticism which was levelled in that direction referred to Clause 2, and to some extent to Clause 4, and very little has been said in reference to Clause 3, which, however, is open to exactly the same criticism. I find it difficult to understand what is the intention of the Department with regard to inspection, which is a most important matter as affecting Secondary Education. In the Bill of last year the Government, through the Education Department, practically undertook the whole of the duty of inspection, but the expense appears to have alarmed them, and they were compelled to have recourse to some other means. I hope the right hon. Gentleman will now be able to make it clear that, while saving the Government a large amount of expense, nothing will be done to wreck the hopes we have in regard to secondary education. Inspection to my mind should be effective and should inspire confidence, but the Government do not appear to me to have taken any safeguards to secure efficiency or to obtain the confidence of the head masters. The words, "or other organisations," which were re-inserted in the Grand Committee seem to me to open the door to grave mistakes on the part of officials. What is to be understood by these "other organisations"? The only organisations I have heard mentioned are the College of Preceptors and the City and Guilds Institute. But the second sub-section opens up a new vista by providing that the county councils may insist on the repayment of municipal money expended on inspection. Surely if the county councils provide the money they have a right to be included in the "other organisations." We have no guarantee that these words may not in the future

include some organisations unable to fulfil the very important duties the sub-section proposes. There is one other point I wish to raise. In regard to the Consultative Committee, arrangements are made as to the qualifications of teachers, but none are made to secure, as inspectors, men of high qualification. I would suggest that the Government should take means, whether by the Consultative Committee or otherwise, to secure the selection only of inspectors of high standing who will command general confidence in addition to the confidence of the head of the new Board of Education. Further than that, I should say the right hon. Gentleman should undertake to make some clear definition as to where the Department would make the inspection, and where the other bodies were to do it. The only distinction that occurs to me is where there are local schools and non-local schools. Are the non-local schools to be expected to pay for inspection, or are they to receive inspection free? I think the right hon. Gentleman would do well to give us a very clear definition upon this matter. One of the Members for the Oxford University asked if we were to have a Bill early next year establishing local authorities, but we have as yet no answer to that. It would be most important in regard to these schools whether we are to have local authorities or not. If local authorities are established, it is certain that the county authorities would demand power to provide inspection.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 10, to leave out Clause 3."
—(*Mr. Alfred Hutton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out to the word 'after,' in line 10, stand part of the Bill."

SIR J. GORST: This clause is an administrative clause, and therefore it is quite unreasonable to expect that all the details of administration should be put in it. I suppose that without any clause at all the Board of Education would possess inherent powers to provide for the inspection of any secondary school which chose to be inspected. There is no Parliamentary authority for inspection in the Science

and Art Department. But it was thought respectful to the Department that an indication should be given of the sort of inspection which the Board of Education should set up for secondary schools. The hon. Member has referred to the possibility of inspection, not by officers of the Education Department, but by the Universities, or other organisations. Why, he asks, "other organisations"? The hon. Member himself has mentioned two organisations whose inspection would be most valuable, and why should not the Board of Education avail itself of the inspection by the College of Preceptors or the City and Guilds Institute? Why should they not employ any agency which is really a valuable agency for the purpose of informing themselves of the kind of education given in the secondary schools? This very clause provides, moreover, that the Welsh Intermediate Education Committee may be employed as an organisation for inspection. There is ample security that the Board of Education will not give any kind of official sanction to inspection that is inefficient. Is it conceivable that a Committee, two-thirds of which are gentlemen who represent universities, would sanction, by their advice, the Board of Education having recourse to any organisation which was not in their opinion thoroughly competent to carry out efficient inspection?

*MR. SPEAKER: I may point out that there are Amendments on the Paper to leave out the words "or other organisations," and it seems to me that it would be inconvenient to have a detailed debate upon this point on the clause, and another debate on the same point when these specific Amendments are reached.

SIR J. GORST: I was replying to the speeches of hon. Members who invited explanations on the whole clause, but if I am not in order I will reserve what I have further to say until the Amendments are before the House.

*MR. WILLIAM JONES (Carnarvon, Arfon): I hope my hon. friend will not press his Amendment, because I consider this to be one of the most

Sir J. Gorst.

valuable clauses in the Bill. It provides for the first time for the inspection of secondary schools, and concedes the principle that the State is responsible for the efficiency of secondary no less than primary education. By this clause there is a guarantee against incompetence in secondary teaching by the intervention of a public authority. Moreover, this clause will afford a guide as to the quality and efficiency of the instruction given in the secondary schools of England. We had a Return of all the schools professing to give secondary education, as well as many others which made no such profession. According to that Return, 32 per cent. of the boys' schools and 74 per cent. of the girls' schools were without a single university graduate on their teaching staff. Ninety per cent. of the private schools also had no university graduate on their teaching staff. How does that compare with the secondary schools in France and Germany? In France 90 per cent. of all the teachers in secondary schools have received a diploma from some French university; and in Germany no teachers may teach in public or private schools without a Government certificate. I hope my hon. friend will not destroy the character of the Bill by moving a rejection of this clause. Another point is that provision is made for safeguarding the Welsh Central Board. We have a thoroughly competent authority in Wales discharging the duties of inspection. There are eighty-eight schools in Wales giving secondary education, half of them for girls; and nearly seven-eighths of the pupils inspected were drawn from private schools. The reports of the inspection provided by the Welsh Central Board, and the opinions of such authorities as Mr. Legard and the Chief Secretary to the Charity Commission, show what splendid work is being done, and make the story of Welsh education read like a romance.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON: I ask leave to withdraw the Amendment.

*MR. CHANNING: Before the Amendment is withdrawn, I should like to say a few words. The Vice-President of the Council has given the strongest argument for excluding this clause from the Bill.

He says that it is an administrative clause, and that the Board of Education would have inherent powers to carry out any inspection they thought proper. My objection to the clause is, that it lays before Parliament a scheme of unrestricted and unchecked delegation of the powers of inspection which would commit the Board before-hand to yield to the claims of the various organizations which are thus given a foothold. It would be far wiser, in my opinion, if this clause were withdrawn from the Bill, and if the new Education Department were to take upon itself the responsibility of initiating and carrying out its inherent powers of inspection. The Board will, of course, naturally consult the Universities, the College of Preceptors, and the City and Guilds' Institute—as to the best way of carrying out its powers of inspection. They will be able to select their advisers everywhere, and to devise the proper means of testing and checking the education in the schools. It is most important that the whole duty of fixing the standard of education and of checking and testing the education given, should remain with the Board as responsible to Parliament, instead of being handed over to bodies, some of whom are distinctly interested, and would be practically worked to test their own work, and who are liable to lack initiative and originality and to fall into grooves. After what the right hon. Gentleman has said, we are on logical, as well as on administrative grounds, entitled to ask him to withdraw this clause, which is not necessary to enable the Department to carry on the best type of secondary education in the country.

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester): I have been written to by educational authorities in my constituency, who have urged me to move the rejection of this clause on grounds which, after your ruling, Mr. Speaker, I would not be in order to enter into.

*MR. SPEAKER: I have not given a ruling to that effect.

MR. BROADHURST: Their main objection was specially to Sub-section 2, and I shall move to reject it when we come to it.

MR. DAVID MACIVER (Liverpool, Kirkdale): Like the hon. Member who has just spoken, the educational authorities in my constituency have also pressed me to oppose this clause. They say that in their opinion it is very undesirable that the Bill should be complicated by the introduction of a provision of a highly controversial character, and they deprecate it the more because this provision would come naturally, and be more germane to the measure, which they understand the Government are pledged to introduce shortly to deal with the local authorities and secondary education.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*MR. CHANNING: I beg to move the Amendment which stands in my name, though I do not wish to press it, if it should be found to conflict with the latter Amendment standing in the name of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Aberdeen. This Amendment raises the question whether the Education Board should take the initiative in their own hands, and, with such skilled advice as they think necessary, should appoint their own inspectors to carry out their own inspection in their own way. What I have in view is to give the Education Board an absolutely free hand. It may be urged that this would exclude inspectors selected from the lists of the Universities and other bodies. It does nothing of the kind, for the Board would naturally consult these bodies in selecting special types of inspectors for special groups of schools. What I wish to insist on is that the Education Department should retain its absolute freedom, and should act on its own responsibility and take the initiative in this matter. I beg to move the Amendment standing in my name.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 10, to leave out from the word 'or,' to the word 'inspect,' in line 12, and insert the words 'by inspectors appointed for the purpose.'"—(*Mr. Channing.*)

instead thereof.

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out to the word 'or,' in line 12, stand part of the Bill."

SIR J. GORST pointed out that whether the Department employed the University or any other organisation for this purpose the responsibility would still rest with themselves.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON drew attention to the fact that the clause provided that the Board of Education might by their officers or by any university or other organisation inspect secondary schools. He complained of the ambiguity of the words, "or other organisation," and moved their omission. The words had been deleted by the Grand Committee of the House of Lords, and had been re-inserted by the Grand Committee of the House of Commons, and, therefore, there must have been some object in their being reintroduced. In his opinion, the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill should be able to give the House some guarantee as to what class of organisations would be employed. It might be that pressure would be brought to bear on the Department to recognise county councils as organisations within the section. Would they be able to come in and claim to be recognised as such? If they were, he was afraid the right hon. Gentleman had extended the Bill beyond what was his own and the Government's original intention.

Mr. Channing.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 12, to leave out the words 'or other organisation.'"—(*Mr. Alfred Hutton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'or other organisation' stand part of the Bill."

SIR J. GORST said he did not wish to repeat the speech he made a fortnight ago, but in answer to the hon. Gentleman he could assure him that the object of the Board of Education would be to get good and thorough inspection, and they would avail themselves of the most suitable organisations to assist. Whether they employed a University or any other organisation, they would still be as responsible for the inspection as if it was made by their own officers. The Welsh Technical Board might be so employed, and he could mention other bodies which were not universities, but he did not like to mention others because there was a great deal of jealousy about these things, and if he were to mention the Technical Instruction Committee of the London County Council he would probably arouse the jealousy of the School Board authority. It would, in his opinion, be a great pity if these words were omitted, because it would cripple the Board of Education, and prevent them from making use of any bodies except universities, while there were other agencies which were very valuable and ought to be made use of.

LORD EDMOND FITZMAURICE (Wiltshire, Cricklade) disclaimed any intention of saying anything on behalf of the county council which might cause jealousy on the part of the School Board, but while not denying the force of what fell from the right hon. Gentleman, thought that under the clause as it stood

there was nothing to prevent the associations formed under the Education Act of two years ago from taking part in the inspection of secondary schools. It was the bounden duty of those on that side of the House to protect the interests of education from the interference of denominational bodies which appeared inclined to take up a peculiarly aggressive attitude towards education. He would prefer to see the words struck out, and ventured to hope the right hon. Gentleman would accept the Amendment of his hon. friend.

MR. ERNEST GRAY failed to see how the clause could be open to the suspicion thrown upon it by hon. Members on the other side of the House. The idea that the words objected to were intended to cover inspection by diocesan and other Church organisations was absurd. In any case the Board of Education would be entirely responsible, and it was not to be supposed that they would accept all and sundry as inspecting authorities. He thought that the clause would accomplish great good, and in fact it was one of the greatest reforms since the Act of 1870. He hoped no Amendment would be accepted, but that the clause would pass in its original form.

MR. BROADHURST said he thought a great deal of misgiving on the part of the Church party would be removed if the right hon. Gentleman could see his way to safeguard the additional clerical staff. If the Vice-President really desired to save the secondary schools from the evil designs of the diocesan associations, he would insert in the clause a provision as to from what source and by what authority the inspectors should be nominated. The county council claimed a right to nominate if they surrendered funds of which they were in need for the children of labouring people who had not the means to follow up their educational advantages. The best class of men ought to be selected, and unless the Amendment was carried there was no guarantee that the best men would be appointed. He supported the Amendment.

MR. BRYCE : I think the Government ought consistently to have confined inspection to such schools as are not subject to the local authority ; but instead of

doing that, they have introduced very general words which would allow them, through inspectors whom they may appoint, to inspect all schools, local as well as non-local. I think it would be better if we were to confine the inspection provided for in this way to non-local schools, and to recognise as the authority through whom the inspection should be conducted the Universities, which are specially fitted to examine the non-local schools, and which, in point of fact, have been examining them at their own request. The Universities now contain a great many people perfectly competent to examine in all branches of science and technical subjects, and they would be able to furnish inspectors. I support the Amendment of my hon. friend, which, I think, would really conduce to a systematic settlement of the matter in the long run. The Amendment proposes to restore the words which were in the Bill originally. I think it would be better not to subject the Board of Education to the pressure which might be put upon them by a large number of different bodies.

SIR EDWARD CLARKE: I am very much surprised at the tenor of the speech to which the House has just listened, because the right hon. Gentleman must see that what he suggests as the better way of dealing with the matter would not be carried out by the Amendment which is now proposed. He desires that the examinations should be confined to non-local schools, and he says that if the examinations were so confined you would have in the Universities plenty of examining strength to apply to these schools. If the clause were confined to non-local schools, the value of the clause would be practically reduced to nothing. I am not very much in love with the clause as it stands, but it is quite clear that the non-local schools are those which least require inspection. It is the smaller schools which escape the check of existing examinations and inspection, and which require inspection, both in respect of training the scholars and the conditions under which the work is carried on. The Education Board should not be restricted to the Universities. During the earlier part of the evening Members expressed unbounded confidence in the Education Board, but now they will not trust the Board to elect its own examining body

It happens that there are two bodies much better qualified than Universities for dealing with these examinations—the College of Preceptors and the City and Guilds Institute. They are habitually devoted to the work, and have examiners of the highest class. Why should not the Board be allowed to employ a method of examination which has succeeded so well in the past?

*MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS: I assume that we can all agree with the hon. Member for North Carnarvonshire in thinking that this is a new and important step in connection with our educational history, viz.: the undertaking by the Government of the inspection of secondary schools. It is because the step is new, and because it is so important, that we are jealous in regard to the means to be adopted in bringing the system of inspection into existence. What are the “other organisations” which the Department have in view in this clause? We were entirely in the dark before the discussion to-night was commenced, and we are in the dark now. My fear is that the inspection may in certain cases be inefficient, that in other cases it may not be impartial, and, above all, that in some cases it may be of a sectarian character. To sum it up in a sentence, there is a fear on the part of the real friends of education lest, in connection with this inspection, there should be initiated a system of jerryandering, the fear of which, I think, is justified by some of the events which have occurred in connection with the Education Department itself. The right hon. Gentleman has been asked to give certain assurances. I think the best assurance

we could have in this matter would be the omission of these words from the Bill. I do not expect that he will be coaxed into making an attempt to indicate in the Bill his intentions in regard to the “other organisations”; but if he were to make the attempt, I think it very unlikely, at this moment, he would succeed. This portion of the clause, as it stands, is so dangerously vague that, in my opinion, the only safe mode of treating it would be to omit these words. That would not interfere with the adoption of the principle of inspection; it would leave the whole matter open; and it would be possible hereafter to frame such provisions as would secure the confidence of the entire community.

MR. JEBB: As I happened to be a member of the Standing Committee, perhaps I may be allowed to add a very few words before a Division is taken on this matter. I think the latitude given by the words, “University or other organisation,” is most desirable, because at first the Board would not have a large staff available, and it ought to be able to employ every agency qualified to assist it. It is also desirable that the Board should have power to inspect local schools where the local schools wish it. It would thus be able to begin a work which ought not to be delayed any longer, and prepare the ground for local authorities in secondary education.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 153; Noes, 44. (Division List, No. 324.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold, Alfred
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. D. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederick Gorell
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bethell, Commander
Birrell, Augu-tine
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John

Sir Edward Clarke.

Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Caldwell, James
Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
Carlile, William Walter
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbys.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles Wm.
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worcester)
Chaplin, Right Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Clarke, Sir Edward (Plymouth)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse

Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Curzon, Viscount
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Donelan, Captain A.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn E.
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Fry, Lewis
Galloway, William Johnson
Gedge, Sydney

Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lon.)
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Goldaworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St George's)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. Wm.
 Harwood, George
 Hatch, Ernest F. George
 Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
 Hermon-Hodge, R. Trotter
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir J. H.
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Lockwood, Lieut.-Colonel A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverpool)
 Lorne, Marquess of

Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macaleese, Daniel
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdonna, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 Maclure, Sir John William
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 Maxwell, Rt. Hon. Sir H. E.
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 More, Rbt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Moss, Samuel
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pollock, Harry Frederick
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)

Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Runciman, Walter
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbyshire)
 Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Strauss, Arthur
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxford Univ.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, Jos. Powell (Birm.)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 Yoxall, James Henry
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Asher, Alexander
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Bainbridge, Emerson
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. B. (Clackm.)
 Billson, Alfred
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Burns, John
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. John

Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W. R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Joicey, Sir James
 Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hn. Sir U.
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
 M'Crae, George
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Perks, Robert William
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pirie, Duncan V.

Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Ricketts, J. Compton
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Steadman, William Charles
 Ure, Alexander
 Wallace, Robert
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Alfred Hutton and Mr.
 Channing.

LORD EDMOND FITZMAURICE :
 I now wish to move the Amendment standing in my name, and in doing so I have not the slightest intention of taking up the time of the House by repeating the arguments which I used just now. I can only hope that the Vice-President will save me the trouble of dividing the House on the question, by accepting the words I propose.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 12, after the word 'organisation,' to insert the words 'concerned with secondary or technical education.'"—(Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR J. GORST : I cannot accept the Amendment. I object to confining the inspection to purely educational bodies. It might be necessary to employ the services of the sanitary inspector, in order to see whether the arrangements are satisfactory.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 52 ; Noes, 143. (Division List, No. 325.)

AYES.

Asher, Alexander
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Bainbridge, Emerson
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. B. (Clackm.)
 Billson, Alfred
 Birrell, Augustine
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Burns, John
 Caldwell, James
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Haldane, Richard Burdon
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
 Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.

Holland, W. H. (York, W. R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, W. (Carnarvonshire)
 Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hon. Sir U.
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
 M'Crae, George
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Moss, Samuel
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Perks, Robert William
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare

Pirie, Duncan V.
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Runciman, Walter
 Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Steadman, William Charles
 Trevelyan, Charles Philipe
 Ure, Alexander
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice
 and Mr. Wallace.

NOES.

Anson, Sir Wm. Reynell
 Arnold, Alfred
 Arrol, Sir William
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederic George
 Barnes, Frederic Gorell
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benja.
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Brist'l)
 Bethell, Commander
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bond, Edward
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Butcher, John George
 Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
 Carlile, William Walter
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. A. (Worcester)
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Clarke, Sir Edw. (Plymouth)
 Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Curzon, Viscount
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Fellows, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes

Fletcher, Sir Henry
 Flower, Ernest
 Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
 Fry, Lewis
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond.)
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Goldeworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
 Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. Geo.'s)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. Wm.
 Harwood, George
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick G.
 Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
 Hermon-Hodge, Robert Trotter
 Hoare, Samuel (Norwich)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Lawrence, Sir E. D. (Corn.)
 Lawrence, W. F. (Liverpool)
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverp'l)
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macaleese, Daniel
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Camming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 Maclure, Sir John William
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Maxwell, Rt. Hon. Sir H. E.
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Percy

Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Nicholson, William Graham
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pollock, Harry Frederick
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. E.
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Roys, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W. (Tyronne)
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Sidebottom, William (Derby.)
 Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Strauss, Arthur
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Oxford Uni.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, J. Powell. (Birm.)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrand and
 Mr. Anstruther.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 17, after the word 'terms,' to insert the words, 'in regard to fees for such inspection.'"—(Mr. Carvell Williams.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON: I beg to move to omit Sub-section (2) of Clause 3, which provides that the council of any county borough may, out of any money applicable for the purposes of technical education, pay or contribute to the expenses of inspecting any school within their county or borough. The sub-section has really no value, except to give county councils a *prima facie* claim upon the Government to be recognised as the secondary educational authorities without any further legislation.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 25, to leave out sub-section (2), of Clause 3."—(Mr. Alfred Hutton.)

Question proposed, "That sub-section (2), of Clause 3, stand part of the Bill."

SIR J. GORST: The Association of School Boards have discovered in this sub-section a deep-laid scheme for the injury of the School Board system; and we have had many Members making rather warm speeches, because of that idea. There never was a more unfounded suspicion formed by any public body. The origin and genesis of this sub-section is very simple, and has nothing whatever to do with any desire to injure the School Board system; and it does not in any way prejudice the question of the constitution of the local authorities which, in a future session, will no doubt come under the consideration of Parliament. Secondary schools, to be inspected, have to pay the fees for the inspection. The payment of these fees will present no difficulty to the great public schools; but there may be some poor schools which ought to be inspected, but which cannot afford to pay the fees. The only bodies who could come to their assistance are the county councils. They have the money, which has been described as a "miserable grant," but which is in fact about three times the amount that Parliament votes for Science and Art instruc-

tion every year. In many cases the whole amount is not spent on education, a portion going to the relief of rates. All this clause does is to say that one of the purposes for which the county councils can spend the money will be the payment of fees for poor schools which are unable to pay them, and I am sure that an innocent plan of this kind ought not to be stigmatised as an attack on the School Board system.

MR. BRYCE: If I thought this clause in any way prejudged the question of the constitution of the local authorities, I should entirely agree with the mover of the Amendment, but I really do not think that is the case. That question remains to be dealt with by Parliament in a future session, and this clause cannot be used in argument, when that question comes up, as being a decision of the House upon that point. I am not a member of a county council myself, but I am informed that the county councils do in some cases use what are practically inspectors to examine into schools to which they are awarding their grants; and they pay these inspectors. If a county council wishes one of the inspectors appointed by the Board of Education to do this work for them, why should they not be able to pay for it? There is, therefore, that practical convenience in the clause, in addition to the object suggested by the Vice-President.

*MR. CHANNING: I desire to ask how we are to interpret the remarks of the right hon. Gentleman. Are we to understand him to say that the technical committees of county councils will not be one of the "other organisations" which might be employed with a view to inspection? If he means that the inspectors employed by the technical committees can be used for the purposes of the Act, it is perfectly clear that if the county councils supply money for the purpose, it constitutes a very serious and practical prejudging of the question of the constitution of local authorities. It seems to me there is very considerable ground for the suspicion entertained by the Association of School Boards, and the proposal to strike out this sub-section has a great deal to be said for it. Furthermore, the amount at the disposal of county council, for technical instruction is not by any

means too large, and would be better employed in teaching than in inspection.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY (Yorks, Shipley): The introduction of this sub-section will undoubtedly prejudice the question in the opinion of the county councils, and in favour of their having a *locus standi*. It is the general opinion of the school boards throughout the country that that will be the effect of this clause if passed by the House. Local authorities ought not to be constituted except by a special Act of Parliament, dealing with the question as a whole. If this clause is passed, the question will be prejudged to such an extent, that a very great amount of prejudice will be created when the question comes to be settled in some future session.

MR. ERNEST GRAY: I am strongly of opinion that the Association of School Boards is entirely misinterpreting the object of this clause. It will in no way set up a local authority, or give the county councils any right over the large school boards, but it will simply enable the county councils to avoid needlessly spending money in constituting new schools which are not required, when, if they were able to pay the fees for the examination, they would be able to certify that certain existing schools were of a satisfactory character and must be allowed to continue. That is the sum and substance of the clause, and I hope the opposition will not be continued.

*MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS: The hostility of the school boards to this sub-section is based upon the alleged fact that it is a *quasi* recognition of the claim of the county councils to act hereafter as the local authorities under the Act. This is not the time to discuss the relative merits of the two bodies to act as the local authority; but at least we are entitled to insist that nothing should be done in connection with this measure which would decide the question, or seem in any way to prejudice it. This sub-section is not essential to the clause or to the Bill; it was inserted as an afterthought, and might be omitted without any difficulty whatever; but I am coming to the conclusion that it is the intention of the Government to have the Bill, the whole Bill, and nothing but the Bill.

Mr. Channing.

MR. BROADHURST: Will it be compulsory, on the part of county councils, to make this contribution out of the present funds? Does "may" mean "shall" in this case? The Vice-President does not say "No."

Question put, and agreed to.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON: The object of the Amendment I now beg to move is to give security that the inspectors should have attained a standard which the Board of Education approves. I think it is a very reasonable Amendment, and cannot possibly do any harm.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 28, after the word 'borough,' to insert the words, '(3) No inspector shall be appointed under this clause without the approval of the Board of Education.'"—(*Mr. Alfred Hutton.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR J. GORST: These words are quite unnecessary. The Board of Education would not employ an inspector unless they were satisfied of his competency. It would be extremely inconvenient if every inspector should be required to have a certificate from the Board of Education before he was appointed.

Question put, and negatived.

*MR. CHANNING: I move formally the omission of Clause 4, in order to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether the members of the Consultative Committee are to be appointed for a limited period. The right hon. Gentleman, in Committee, promised that a limit would be provided for. He will remember that the discussion of the period of appointment being fixed led to various difficulties, and so the matter was left on a definite undertaking that it should be dealt with. The view of the whole Committee was that there should be a time limit to the appointment, otherwise we might have a Consultative Committee which would get out of date in their practical relations to the subject.

Amendment negatived.

MR. CHANNING moved an Amendment to Clause 4, giving power to the Board to appoint from time to time a Departmental Committee.

SIR JOHN GORST: It does not require an Act of Parliament to appoint a Departmental Committee.

Amendment negatived.

MR. BRYCE: I put down this Amendment on the Paper to enable the Government to make a statement on a matter which is of some importance. A great many of the schools with which the Committee will have to deal will be girls' schools, and the educational problems to be considered by the Committee concern women and women teachers. Under these circumstances, it seems to me that there should be some women on the Consultative Committee. Oxford and Cambridge have now two colleges which are practically and very closely connected with the Universities. They have got a very large staff of teachers, and they turn out every year great numbers of highly-educated women. All I ask is an assurance from the right hon. Gentleman that the claims of women to representation on the Consultative Committee will be properly considered. Three ladies sat on the Royal Commission on Secondary Education, and gave most valuable assistance indeed, and they proved amongst the most efficient members of the Commission.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 31, after the word 'persons,' to insert the words, 'some of whom shall be women'"—(*Mr. Bryce.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR J. GORST: As the Bill stands, women will be eligible for the Consultative Committee, and it is equally certain that women will be placed on that Committee. It might be rather unfortunate if these words were put in the Bill, because it must go to another place which is not particularly favourable to the claims of women.

MR. BRYCE: Having attained my object, I desire to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

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*MR. EVELYN CECIL (Herts, Hertford), in moving to insert "provided that the whole shall adequately represent the three branches of secondary, technical, and elementary education," said that if the Department gave him an assurance that the subject would be considered, he would not press his Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 32, after the word 'education,' to insert the words, 'Provided that the whole shall adequately represent the three branches of secondary, technical, and elementary education.'"—(*Mr. Evelyn Cecil.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR J. GORST: I am very glad to give the assurance to the hon. Member. I hope the House will not enter into the very thorny question of different kinds of education.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 32, after the word 'education,' to insert the words, 'and appointed for periods to be stated in the Order.'"—(*Mr. Channing.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR J. GORST: The Order in Council will certainly make provision for the periods for which the members of the Consultative Committee will be appointed, but what these periods will be it is rather difficult to state.

MR. CHANNING: It will not be a life appointment, or an inordinately long one.

SIR J. GORST: Certainly not.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. BRYCE, in moving, in clause 4, page 2, line 35, to leave out "by the Board of Education," and insert, "In manner to be provided by Order in Council," said: It seems very undesirable that a political Department should keep a register of

teachers, and therefore we ought to leave the Department which keeps the register to future consideration.

Amendment agreed to.

SIR EDWARD CLARKE (on behalf of Sir FRANCIS POWELL) moved to insert, "and unless within such four weeks an Address has been presented by one or other of the said Houses, praying Her Majesty to withhold Her consent from such order, or any part thereof, then it shall be." He said that he could not imagine that the Government could have any objection to the Amendment. It would specifically safeguard the right of both Houses in regard to Orders of this kind.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 3, to leave out the words, 'before it is,' and insert the words, 'and unless within four weeks an Address has been presented by one or other of the said Houses, praying Her Majesty to withhold her consent from such Order, or any part thereof, then it shall be,'—(*Sir Edward Clarke*)—instead thereof."

Question proposed, 'That the words, 'before it is,' stand part of the Bill.'

SIR J. GORST: The reason why the Government makes these Orders in Council, is because they are not legislative Orders—they are administrative. They do not create any new powers, but merely transfer existing powers from one Department to another, and which can be exercised under precisely the same conditions as now. It would be extremely inconvenient if administrative Orders in Council of this kind were liable to be interfered with by the action of Parliament.

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: This Amendment has a very direct bearing on the discussion which took place earlier in the evening. The Government will, under the Bill, have absolute power to act by Order without either House having the right to interfere. We have not been told how the Consultative Committee is to be appointed, or whom it is to represent, what powers are to be given, or at what date they are to begin. The right hon. gentleman says that no one's rights

Mr. Bryce.

would be affected by these Orders in Council, and yet the Government have just accepted an Amendment by which a register of teachers is to be formed and kept under an Order in Council; and registration involves the teachers' means of livelihood. Notwithstanding that I am not opposed to the passage of the Bill, I must say that the proposal to oust Parliament from all control, and leave these vital matters always to the Government of the day, is one of the strongest and the least compatible with Conservative tradition that I have known. It is true that the House of Commons is all-powerful, but we have been accustomed to obtain the assent of both Houses before any legislative changes, small or great, are made; and as these Orders in Council are legislative changes, I submit that both Houses should have a voice in their decision.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be read a third time."

Mr. LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): I only wish to say a very few words on this question before the Bill is read a third time. The effect of the Bill, so far as Welsh Intermediate Education is concerned, will be to transfer the educational supervision of that system from the Charity Commissioners to the Education Department. I think it is only right that some Welsh Member at all events should say, now that this transfer is being made, that we have no cause to complain of the action of the Charity Commissioners. From the very institution of intermediate education in Wales we have always found the Charity Commissioners helpful and sympathetic. From the beginning, their representative, Mr. Bruce, who attended every meeting of every Joint Education Committee to frame schemes, guided us with wise counsel and sound advice, and during the past ten years, in which he has been connected with the carrying out of this system, he has done Wales, it is no exaggeration to say, priceless service. He has kept us in the right paths, and it is largely owing to his efforts, I believe, that the system has been brought into working order with such little friction. It is a little difficult to mention names in

a connection of this kind, but we do owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Bruce, as Assistant Commissioner, and to Mr. Fearon, as the Secretary to the Commissioners, and we should indeed be ungrateful if, now that their connection with us in this respect is practically to cease, at all events as far as the Charity Commission is concerned, we were not to pay some slight tribute of gratitude to them for all the work that they have done. We part from the Charity Commission with great regret, and in saying that I do not in the slightest degree mean to cast the least reflection upon those who are to be our new masters. I believe that we shall receive the same cordial and sympathetic treatment from the new authority that we have from the old, and I would ask the House to remember with regard to the question of education, in connection with which many thorny questions have been and can be raised, that it is something to be able to say that a Welsh Educational system has been started in regard to which we have never had any controversy on religious questions. I can only hope that that question may be kept entirely in the background in the course of any future discussion upon secondary education in England. In this respect I wish England the same happy experience that Wales has enjoyed during the last ten years, for we now find that all parties are most heartily, cordially, and harmoniously working together for the furtherance of great educational ends. We are bidding farewell to the Charity Commissioners, and in doing so I feel bound, however slight and imperfect the tribute may be, to offer a word of gratitude and appreciation to them for all the services that they have rendered to Wales during the past ten years.

MR. HUMPHREYS-OWEN (Montgomery): I shall not detain the House more than a minute, but as Chairman of the Welsh Intermediate Education Board I wish to emphasise the tribute which has been paid to the Charity Commissioners by my hon. friend the Member for Flint Boroughs, for the work they have done, and at the same time to say that we look forward to the opportunity of working in the same cordial spirit with the new Board of Education. It is a matter of satisfaction to all of us that this Bill has been passed with scarcely any exhibition of party feeling.

Question put.

Bill read the third time and passed, with an Amendment.

PUBLIC WORKS LOANS [REMISSION OF DEBTS].

Resolution reported,—“That it is expedient to authorise the Remission of certain Debts due to the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland from certain Boards of Guardians in Ireland, and from the Wicklow Harbour Commissioners, in pursuance of any Act of the present Session relating to Public Works Loans.”

Resolution agreed to.

PUBLIC WORKS (LOANS) BILL.

Considered in Committee, and reported; as amended, to be considered to-morrow.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (DEFECTIVE AND EPILEPTIC CHILDREN) BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered; read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

TANCRED'S CHARITIES SCHEME CONFIRMATION BILL.

Considered in Committee, and reported, without Amendment; read the third time, and passed.

MARRIAGES VALIDITY (NO. 2) BILL [Lords].

Considered in Committee, and reported, without Amendment; read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

MANCHESTER CANONRIES BILL [Lords].

Considered in Committee:—

(In the Committee.)

MR. J. W. LOWTHER, Cumberland,
Penrith, in the Chair.

Clause 1:—

MR. GALLOWAY (Manchester, S.W.) moved to report progress, on the ground that the Bill was only read a second time at Twelve o'clock the previous night, and that there had been no possibility of properly considering it.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That the Chairman do report Progress, and ask leave to sit again."—(*Mr. Galloway.*)

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (*Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.*): I hope my hon. friend will not press his motion. This Bill is really non-contentious, and is greatly desired in the interest of religious work in Manchester.

MR. GALLOWAY said he could not conceive what possible good the Bill could do to religious work in Manchester.

MR. LLOYD - GEORGE (*Carnarvon District*) asked the First Lord of the Treasury to give some explanation of the position of the first-class canon.

MR. TOMLINSON (*Preston*) said that the object of the Bill was to equalise the sums paid to the different canons.

MR. HARWOOD (*Bolton*) said that the general feeling of all parties in Manchester was that this was a very good measure. Manchester Cathedral was visited by one of the most democratic congregations in the country, and the canons say it is a congregation which ought to have a good service, although, under present conditions, they are not able to pay for it. That would be secured, however, under the arrangements proposed by the Bill; and it would be a distinct disaster to the city, and a throw-

back to the religious work in the city, if the Bill were lost.

MR. BRYCE (*Aberdeen, S.*) thought the Bill was a very useful one, which the House might very well accept. It proposed to remedy an accidental inequality, and did not propose to divert any funds to any other than cathedral purposes.

***MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS** (*Notts, Mansfield*) said that on the Second Reading of the Bill he had asked whether the intention was that the equalisation should take place at once, but the Solicitor-General said that it was deemed to be just to obtain the assent of the existing canons. He was told that one of the canons still held out, and that years might elapse before the Act could come into operation. Therefore it would remain true that the first canon would still get too much, and the other canons too little. That took very much of the gilding from the transaction. It was one more illustration of how the strength of vested interests delayed necessary reforms in the Church.

MR. HARWOOD said it was necessary to make some clear arrangement in view of the time when the first canon, in the ordinary course of nature, would cease from troubling. If this arrangement was passed, and had the sanction of Parliament, the other canons would have a lever to bring to bear on the recalcitrant canon.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 13; Noes, 97. (*Division List, No. 326.*)

AYES.

Caldwell, James
Channing, Francis Allston
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Griffith, Ellis J.
Horniman, Frederick John
Lawson, Sir W. (*Cumberland*)

Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Macaleese, Daniel
Moss, Samuel
Oldroyd, Mark
Pirie, Duncan V.

Sullivan, Donal (*Westmeath*)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Galloway and Mr.
Henry J. Wilson.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold, Alfred
Asher, Alexander
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Manch'r*)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (*Leeds*)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. Blair (*Clackm.*)
Barnes, Frederick Gorell
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (*Bristol*)
Billson, Alfred

Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Campbell, J. H. M. (*Dublin*)
Carlife, William Walter
Causton, Richard Knight
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbysh's*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (*Birm.*)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (*Worc'r*)

Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cranborne, Viscount
Curzon, Viscount
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn E.
Finlay, Sir Robert Hannatyne

Fisher, William Hayes
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Flower, Ernest
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (C. of Lond.)
 Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. John
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. George's)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Greenville, Hon. Ronald
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. Wm.
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
 Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn.)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)

Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 Maclure, Sir John William
 Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
 Moon, Edward Robert Percy
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nichol, Donald Ninian
 Perks, Robert William
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Charles T.
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W. (Tyronne)
 Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbysh.)

Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Strauss, Arthur
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, Jos. Powell- (Birm.)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyvill, Marmaduke d'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

MR. LEWIS (Flint Boroughs) moved, in Clause 1, line 8, to leave out 2, and insert 1. The object of this Amendment, he said, was to ascertain where they were. What was wanted was a little more light as to the salaries of these canons. Under the Act of 1850 the canons received £1,000 a year, but in addition to that some of them held other preferments. The first canon received an addition of £1,300 to his income. He wanted to know in what way the Bill was likely to affect the reverend gentleman, and if he had given his assent to the proposed arrangement.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir R. B. FINLAY, Inverness Burghs) was sorry he was not prepared to give the information. The object of the Bill was to make a fair distribution of certain funds derived from the sale of a house, and apply the balance in aid of an improved service in the cathedral.

Amendment negatived.

MR. GALLOWAY: I wish to move an Amendment to Clause 1, to provide that the money to be devoted under the Bill to cathedral services shall be allocated to the assistance of the poorer parishes of Manchester. I think there can be no doubt whatever that there are in the City of Manchester many parishes where the incomes of the clergy are totally inadequate for the duties which they have to perform. Indeed, the Bishop of Manchester himself has for the last two years actively associated himself with the fund for assisting as far as possible the poorer parishes which stand in need of

pecuniary support. I quite agree with my hon. friend the Member for Bolton as to the services that ought to be held in the cathedral, and I think there would be no difficulty in obtaining the necessary money, feeling, as I do, that the supporters of the Church in other parts of the city would be only too willing, if they were properly approached, to give money for the purpose desired. It is, however, a totally different thing to get money for the poorer parishes, and I therefore propose that the money to be devoted under the Bill to cathedral services be given for the assistance of the poorer parishes.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 10, to leave out the words 'such purposes connected with the service and ministrations of the cathedral,' and insert the words 'making additional provisions for the cure of souls in parishes in the city of Manchester where such assistance is most required.'"—(Mr. Galloway.)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

SIR R. B. FINLAY: I am not prepared to dispute my hon. friend's statement that more pecuniary assistance is required for the poorer parishes in the City of Manchester, but at the same time I think the Committee should recognise that there is a certain appropriateness in applying this money for the services and administration of the cathedral.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 87; Noes, 18. (Division List, No. 327.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Arnold, Alfred
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Man.)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. B. (Clackm.)
 Barnes, Frederick Gorell
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
 Carlile, William Walter
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbys.)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chaloner, Capt. R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Curzon, Viscount
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Fellowes, Hn. Ailwyn Edward

Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Flower, Ernest
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (C. of Lond.)
 Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. John
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. George's
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Harwood, George
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Corn
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Lockwood, Lt.-Colonel A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverpool
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Macaleese, Daniel
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 Maclure, Sir John William
 Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
 Moon, Edward Robert Percy
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 Morrell, George Herbert

Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bate)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matt. W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Strauss, Arthur
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Valentia, Viscount
 Ward, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Williams, J. Powell. (Birm.)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Asher, Alexander
 Billson, Alfred
 Caldwell, James
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. C. Seale-

Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Moss, Samuel
 Oldroyd, Mark

Perks, Robert William
 Pire, Duncan V.
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Galloway and Mr.
 Lloyd-George.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I propose to move the omission from the Bill of the last proviso, viz: "that nothing in this section shall operate to reduce the income of any person who is a canon at the passing of this Act, except with his consent." I do not see why the senior canon should receive £1,300 a year in respect of a sale of a residence which is worth £250 a year.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 14, to leave out the words from the word 'determined,' to the end of the clause."—(Mr. Lloyd-George.)

Question proposed: "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

MR. MOSS (Denbighshire, E.): It seems to me that the principle embodied in the Amendment is either a fair principle, or an unfair principle, I do

not see why the necessity of obtaining the consent of one canon should block the whole scheme. The principle of the Tithe Rent-Charge Bill was that the clergy knew what the conditions of the benefices were before they accepted the benefices. So in this case, the canons knew the salaries they were to get. If the principle was just in one case, it was just in the other.

MR. ELLIS J. GRIFFITH (Anglesey) said that if the Memorandum attached to this Bill was correct, all that the canons were entitled to was a fit house of residence. The rent of the senior canon's house was £250 a year, and he had no right to complain if he got a house of that value.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 82; Noes, 16. (Division List, No. 328.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Arnold, Alfred
 Atkinson, Right Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Man.)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. B. (Clackm.)
 Barnes, Frederic Gorell
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
 Carlile, William Walter
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Curzon, Viscount
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward

Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (C. of Lond.)
 Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. John
 Goldaworthy, Major-General
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
 Harwood, George
 Jebb, Richard Claverhouse
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Corn)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverpl.)
 Lorne, Marquis of
 Macaleese, Daniel
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 Maclure, Sir J. William
 Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
 Moon, Edward Robert Percy
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)

Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath).
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Roys, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Tomlinson, Wm. Ed. Murray
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent).
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset).
 Williams, Joseph Powell. (Birm.)
 Willcox, Sir John Archibald
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir
 William Walrond and Mr.
 Anstruther.

NOES.

Asher, Alexander
 Billson, Alfred
 Caldwell, James
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
 Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)

Horniman, Frederick John
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'lnd)
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Moss, Samuel
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Perks, Robert William

Pirie, Duncan V.
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Lloyd-George and Mr.
 Ellis Griffith.

Motion made, and Question proposed,
 "That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill."

MR. LEWIS said he had received as yet no reply to his question as to what the total salary of the first canon was. He got £1,000 a year under the Act of 1850, he had £1,300 a year from this property, and he had £170 a year as vicar of a parish in Kent, making a total of £2,470.

MR. HARWOOD said that the total income of the canon had nothing to do with the Bill.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Bill reported without Amendment; to be read the third time To-morrow.

COMMONS AND OPEN SPACES BILL
[Lords.]

Considered in Committee, and reported, with Amendments; as amended, to be considered To-morrow.

LINCOLNSHIRE CORONERS BILL
[Lords.]

Considered in Committee, and reported, with Amendments; as amended, to be considered To-morrow.

POOR LAW ACTS AMENDMENT BILL
[Lords.]

Considered in Committee, and reported, with Amendments and an Amended Title; as amended, to be considered To-morrow.

INEBRIATES ACT (1898) AMENDMENT BILL.

As amended, considered; read the third time, and passed.

TELEGRAPH (CHANNEL ISLANDS) BILL [Lords.]

Order for Committee read, and discharged;—Bill withdrawn.

NAVY AND ARMY EXPENDITURE, 1897-8.

Resolutions reported.

1. "That it appears by the Navy Appropriation Account for the year

ended the 31st day of March, 1898, and the statement appended thereto, as follows, viz. :—

(a) That the gross expenditure for certain Navy Services exceeded the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £595,246 2s. 1d., as shown in Column No. 1 of the Schedule hereto appended; while the gross expenditure for other Navy Services fell short of the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £2,038,302 12s. 8d., as shown in Column No. 2 of the said appended Schedule, so that the gross actual expenditure for the whole of the Navy Services fell short of the gross estimated expenditure by the net sum of £1,443,056 10s. 7d.

(b) That the receipts in aid of certain Navy Services fell short of the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £13,137 17s. 8d., as shown in Column No. 3 of the said appended Schedule; while the receipts in aid of other Navy Services exceeded the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £59,218 9s. 4d., as shown in Column No. 4 of the said appended Schedule; so that the total actual receipts in aid of the Grants for Navy Services exceeded the total estimated receipts by the net sum of £46,080 11s. 8d.

(c) That the resulting differences between the Exchequer Grants for Naval Services and the net expenditure are as follows, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Total Surpluses	2,041,004	0	5
Total Deficits...	551,866	18	2
Net Surpluses	£1,489,137	2	3"

2. "That the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have temporarily authorised the application, in reduction of the net charge on Exchequer Grants for certain Navy Services, of the whole of the sums received in excess of the estimated Appropriations in Aid, in respect of the same Services; and have also temporarily authorised the application of so much of the said total surpluses

on certain Grants for Navy Services as is necessary to cover the said total deficits on other Grants for Navy Services."

3. "That the application of such sums be sanctioned."

(See Schedule A.)

4. "That it appears by the Army Appropriation Account for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1898, and the statement appended thereto, as follows, viz. :—

(a) That the gross expenditure for certain Army services exceeded the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £151,696 5s. 6d., as shown in Column No. 1 of the Schedule hereto appended; while the gross expenditure for other Army Services fell short of the estimate of such expenditure by a total sum of £167,041 2s. 10d., as shown in Column No. 2 of the said appended Schedule; so that the gross actual expenditure for the whole of the Army Services fell short of the gross estimated expenditure by the net sum of £15,344 17s. 4d.

(b) That the receipts in aid of certain Army Services fell short of the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £46,536 1s. 11d., as shown in Column No. 3 of the said appended Schedule; while the receipts in aid of other Army Services exceeded the estimate of such receipts by a total sum of £133,300 13s. 11d., as shown in Column No. 4 of the said appended Schedule; so that the total actual receipts in aid of the Grants for Army Services exceeded the total estimated receipts by the net sum of £86,764 12s.

(c) That the resulting differences between the Exchequer Grants for Army Services and the net expenditure are as follows, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Total Surpluses	235,876	18	1
Total Deficits ...	133,767	8	9
Net Surplus...	102,109	9	4."

5. "That the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have temporarily authorised the application, in re-

duction of the net charge on Exchequer Grants for certain Army Services, of the whole of the sums received in excess

SCHEDULE A.

Number of Vote.	Navy Services, 1897-98. Votes.	Gross Expenditure.		Appropriations in Aid.	
		Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure.	Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure.	Deficiencies of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts.	Surpluses of Actual as compared with Estimated Receipts.
		1.	2.	3.	4.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1 -	Wages, &c., of Officers, Seamen, and Boys				
	Coast Guard, and Royal Marines	...	78,418 3 7	...	9,034 16 3
2 -	Victualling and Clothing for the Navy	...	18,436 8 9	12,023 18 9	...
3 -	Medical Establishments and Services	—	4 557 7 7	—	1,875 10 3
4 -	Martial Law	734 0 8	—	10 16 5	
5 -	Educational Services	—	1,788 17 0	838 15 8	
6 -	Scientific Services	—	299 2 3	—	685 4 6
7 -	Royal Naval Reserves	—	22,298 14 8	—	18 17 2
8 -	Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, &c. :				
Sec. 1	Personnel	59,255 16 3	—	57 1 4	
Sec. 2	Materiel	348,753 17 10	—	—	31,655 18 8
Sec. 3	Contract Work	—	1,884,638 15 7	—	1,712 10 0
9 -	Naval Armaments	62,153 8 7	—	—	7,757 7 9
10 -	Works, Buildings, and Repairs at Home and Abroad	—	27,865 3 3	—	2,255 4 0
11 -	Miscellaneous Effective Services	103,857 5 2	—	—	4,211 4 5
12 -	Admiralty Office	1,068 4 0	—	—	15 9 9
13 -	Half-Pay, Reserved and Retired Pay	1,754 4 1	—	58 10 0	
14 -	Naval and Marine Pensions, Gratuities, and Compassionate Allowances	10,071 6 7	—	9 15 6	
15 -	Civil Pensions and Gratuities	4,780 3 9	—	—	14 6 7
16 -	Additional Naval Force for Service in Australasian Waters	42 16 0	—	139 0 0	
	Amount written off as irrecoverable	2,574 19 2			
		595,246 2 1	2,038,302 12 8	13,137 17 8	59,218 9 4
Net Surplus, £1,443,056 10 7				Net Surplus, £46,080 11 8	
Surplus surrendered to the Exchequer				— £1,489,137 2 3	

of the estimated Appropriations in Aid, in respect of the same Services; and have also temporarily authorised the

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application of so much of the said total surpluses on certain Grants for Army Services as is necessary to cover the

2 T

said total deficits on other Grants for | 6. "That the application of such
Army Services." | sums be sanctioned."

SCHEDULE B.

No. of Vote.	Army Services, 1897-98. Votes.	Gross Expenditure.		Appropriations in Aid.	
		Excesses of Actual over Estimated Gross Expenditure.	Surpluses of Estimated over Actual Gross Expenditure.	Deficiencies of Actual as compared with Esti- mated Re- ceipts.	Surpluses of Actual as compared with Esti- mated Re- ceipts.
		1.	2.	3.	4.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1	Pay, &c., of Army (General Staff, Regiments, Reserve, and Departments)	52,171 3 11	...	...	3,572 10 4
2	Medical Establishments: Pay, &c. ...	6,211 18 10	...	...	170 14 2
3	Militia: Pay, Extra Pay, Bounty, &c. ...	...	12,804 1 3	...	2,191 19 3
4	Yeomanry Cavalry: Pay and Allowances ...	...	475 11 9	...	3 0 0
5	Volunteer Corps: Pay and Allowances ...	...	1,378 12 7	...	180 9 6
6	Transport and Remounts ...	23,350 4 0	...	...	11,223 15 7
7	Provisions, Forage, and other Supplies ...	40,856 10 5	...	...	11,534 4 3
8	Clothing Establishments, and Services ...	14,742 3 2	...	15,554 12 7	...
9	Warlike and other Stores: Supply and Repair ...	...	99,201 19 2	...	90,970 12 4
10	Works, Buildings, and Repairs: Cost, including Staff for Engineer Services ...	...	37,643 13 4	30,864 4 4	...
11	Establishments for Military Education ...	...	1,281 17 3	...	1,476 7 6
12	Miscellaneous Effective Services ...	5,044 9 8	...	...	557 14 6
13	War Office: Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges ...	...	3,336 13 11	...	140 0 11
14	Non-effective Charges for Officers, &c. ...	6,541 15 6	...	...	8,296 2 4
15	Non-effective Charges for Men, &c. ...	...	10,918 13 7	...	2,983 3 3
16	Superannuation, Compensation, and Compassionate Allowances ...	2,539 13 7	...	117 5 0	...
	Balance irrecoverable ...	238 6 5	...	...	...
		151,696 5 6	167,041 2 10	46,536 1 11	133,300 10 11
		Net Surplus, £15,344 17 4 Net Surplus, £86,764 12 0			
		Surplus surrendered to the Exchequer ... £102,109 9 4			

—*Mr. Hanbury.*

Resolutions agreed to.

Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

In pursuance of the Order of the House of the 17th day of July last,

House adjourned accordingly at half-past Two of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 2nd August 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

BOOTLE CORPORATION BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

CLYDE NAVIGATION BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered; a clause added; Amendments made.

Ordered, that Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Dr. Farquharson.*)

[Queen's Consent signified.]

Bill read the third time accordingly, and passed, with Amendments.

SALFORD CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered.

Amendments made.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Dr. Farquharson.*)

[Queen's Consent signified.]

Bill read the third time accordingly, and passed, with Amendments.

NORTH EASTERN AND HULL AND BARNSELY RAILWAYS (JOINT DOCKS) BILL [Lords].

Order read for resuming Adjourned Debate on Amendment proposed [1st August], on Consideration, as amended.

And which Amendment was, in page 21, line 37, to leave out from the word "Hull," to the word "provided," in page 22, line 7.—(*Sir Albert Rollit.*)

Question again proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.): On this Bill the parties have arrived
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at an agreement which is virtually though not in the same words, the Amendment which stands in my name on the Paper. I therefore propose to withdraw my Amendment, and to move instead the Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for East Hull, and, finally, to move the agreed proviso.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In Clause 21, page 21, line 37, to leave out from 'Hull' to 'provided' in page 22, line 7; and in page 22, line 12, at end to add, 'Provided also that the Railway and Canal Commission shall have power to make, within the limits and subject to the provisions of this section, rules for the purpose of regulating the user of the said railway.'"—(*Sir Albert Rollit.*)

Agreed to.

Ordered, That Standing Order 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Dr. Farquharson.*)

[Queen's Consent signified.]

Bill read the third time accordingly, and passed, with Amendments.

GLASGOW CORPORATION TELEPHONES BILL.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged.

Bill withdrawn.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 20) BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION (LONDON) BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered.

MR. E. FLOWER (Bradford, W.): I desire to call the attention of the House to a new departure in connection with this Bill, and I will ask the Vice-President for some expression of opinion as to the course which has been pursued. A very extraordinary proceeding was adopted by the London School Board in the case of

the Netley Street Schools in St. Pancras. In the immediate vicinity of these schools there is a very large and flourishing Church school, and before the School Board proceeded with the scheme for the enlargement of the Netley Street Schools, they instructed the visitors, who are the attendance officers of the Board, to make a house-to-house canvass of the parents of the children attending the Church schools. I venture to think that that was an exceedingly improper and probably an illegal course to have taken. The visitors are officers appointed to secure the attendance of children at Board and Voluntary schools alike, and it can only be regarded as a serious abuse of authority that they should be taken away from their proper duties to take part in a partisan canvass of this character. I maintain that those officers were deliberately taken away from their duties to participate in this party canvass, and to use information obtained for a totally different purpose, in order to carry out the policy of the School Board. I hope we shall have from the Vice-President a very candid opinion as to these tactics. I do not think they are conducive to the interests of education, or that they are legal, and I trust that the Education Department will take steps to prevent their recurrence. The only other matter to which I desire to direct the attention of the Vice-President is with regard to the accommodation in the Voluntary schools. A great many of the schools in this Bill calculate their accommodation upon what is known as the ten-foot basis. I wish to know whether the School Board is acting under the sanction of the Education Department in enlarging those schools upon that basis without reckoning the accommodation in neighbouring Voluntary schools. I know that in the minds of many members of the School Board for London there is a doubt as to the action that would be taken by the Department, and it is very desirable that there should be an understanding. I do not desire to prevent the passing of this Bill, and I only rise to draw attention to the two points I have mentioned.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): I desire to call attention to another aspect of this Bill. Attention has been called to the action of the London School Board in vastly increasing the enormous difficulty of the housing

Mr. E. Flower.

problem in London by taking possession of working-class dwellings without making any accommodation for their occupants elsewhere. The Board is under statutory obligation to provide accommodation elsewhere if they take more than twenty houses, but they directly evade that obligation by breaking up what is practically one scheme into a number of parts, no one of which would involve the taking of twenty houses, thereby escaping the obligation laid on them by Parliament. As regards Bethnal Green, it has been proved to the satisfaction of the Home Secretary that that course has actually been followed by the London School Board. The Bill now before the House remedies that evil by the Amendment introduced yesterday, and I merely desire to explain that in consequence of the assurance given by the right hon. gentleman the Home Secretary I do not intend to move the Amendment that stands in my name, and I thank him on behalf of my constituency for his action.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (Sir J. GORST, Cambridge University): In reply to the hon. Member for West Bradford, the Education Department have nothing to do with the proceedings of the London School Board attendance officers. I have no official knowledge of the matter he has mentioned. From what I have heard I think it is extremely improper, but the remedy is not with the Education Department; it rests mainly with the ratepayers if they disapprove of the action of the Board. With regard to the ten foot basis, the Education Department is not bound by the calculation of the London School Board. They calculate the number of school places in accordance with the provision in the Code, and enlargements are made, having regard not only to existing deficiency, but also to prospective deficiency. The Department acts in accordance with what is laid down in the Code, without any reference to the London School Board.

MR. J. G. TALBOT (Oxford University): If the right hon. Gentleman will investigate the point raised by my hon. friend, he will find that there is more in it than he imagines. What I understand is that the London School

Board, in calculating the amount of accommodation required, looks round to see what other school accommodation exists, and they cast their eyes on a number of Voluntary schools, for which they have no particular sympathy; and if the School Board takes an extravagant basis and calculates on it, and then puts the onus on the Voluntary schools of proving that they have a sufficient amount of accommodation, a deficiency at once arises. When the School Board approaches the Department with a case calculated on this basis, unless the Department is vigilant—

SIR J. GORST: It is vigilant.

MR. J. G. TALBOT: I am glad to hear it, but I think it is not as vigilant as it ought to be.

Objection being taken, further Proceeding on Consideration, as amended, stood adjourned.

Bill, as amended, to be further considered To-morrow.

NATIONAL TELEPHONE COMPANY (No. 1) BILL.

Order [9th March] that the Bill be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills read, and discharged.

Bill withdrawn.

NATIONAL TELEPHONE COMPANY (No. 2) BILL.

Order [9th March] that the Bill be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills read, and discharged.

Bill withdrawn.

TELEGRAPH ACT (1892) AMENDMENT BILL.

Order [6th March] that the Bill be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills read, and discharged.

Bill withdrawn.

PETITIONS.

BOARD OF EDUCATION BILL.

Petition from Bristol, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

POOR LAW AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1845.

Petition from Glamis, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

STATUE OF OLIVER CROMWELL.

Petition from London and other places, against erection on public land; to lie upon the Table.

TELEGRAPHS (TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION, &c.) BILL.

Petition from Bristol, against; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.

Copy presented,—of Twenty-eighth Annual Report of the Local Government Board, 1898-9 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.

Copy presented of Supplement of the Twenty-eighth Annual Report of the Local Government Board, 1898-9, containing the Report of the Medical Officer for 1898-9 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

NATIONAL EDUCATION (IRELAND).

Copy presented of Sixty-fifth Report of the Commissioners, being for the year 1898-9 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EVICCTIONS (IRELAND).

Copy presented of Return of Evictions in Ireland for the quarter ended 30th June, 1899 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EAST INDIA CANTONMENT REGULATIONS.

Copy presented of Rules and applied Enactments issued by the Government of India, 16th June, 1899 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE.

Ninth Report brought up, and read; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

MANCHESTER CANONRIES BILL.

[THIRD READING.]

Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed,
"That the Bill be now read the third time."

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid.): I think it right at this stage to point out that there is an important principle involved in this Bill. The Government have proceeded on the footing that there ought to be equalisation of the stipends of the canons in this cathedral, whereas previously some of the canons had too much and others too little. The very same thing obtains throughout the whole of the Church of England, and I hope that, having begun with the principle of equalisation in this Bill, that principle will be carried out in the interest of justice, and of the Church, in a larger measure with regard to the stipends of ministers in the Church of England as a whole. If that were done, it would be found that the low salaries of so many clergymen could be easily put right, and the apparent injustice to so many clergy with small incomes would be remedied without any resort to more drastic measures.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed without Amendment.

PUBLIC WORKS (LOANS) BILL.

As amended, considered.

Motion made and Question proposed,
"That the Bill be now read the third time."

MR. CALDWELL: I wish to call attention on a point of order to a new clause which was added to the Bill, and which refers to a matter of local rating, and is not an ordinary case of lending money out of the Public Works Loan Fund. Even assuming that it is competent to introduce the matter of the extension of the local area for rating, it ought to be limited to the purposes of the Public Works Commission. I submit that that part of the clause takes the clause outside the scope of the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot rule the clause out of order on the grounds stated.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

COLONIAL LOANS BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 6, to leave out the words 'the Colonies,' and insert the words 'Barbados and St. Vincent.'"—(Captain Sinclair.)

Question again proposed, "That the words 'the Colonies' stand part of the clause."

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): I am in hopes that the hon. Gentleman will now withdraw his Amendment.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfarshire): The character of the discussion is entirely altered by the statement which the right hon. Gentleman made to the Committee yesterday to the effect that this is an emergency Bill indemnifying certain Governments in regard to certain steps taken by the Crown agents. I do not, therefore, propose to press the Amendment. I may, however, be allowed to say that the right hon. Gentleman cannot hold the House responsible for the step the Government has taken.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I am quite ready to accept all responsibility.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 7, after 'Act,' to insert 'over the finances of which the Secretary of State for the Colonies, as representing Her Majesty's Government, has complete control.'"—(Captain Sinclair.)

MR. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.): These words were in the other Bill,

but on the principle of this Bill I would rather object to them, for they might affect the growing revenues of these colonists. I may add that in one of the Papers issued to us Sir David Barbour, speaking of the Home Government giving some aid to Jamaica, said that the Secretary of State should obtain a greater control over the finances of Jamaica than he possesses.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I entirely agree with the hon. Gentleman, but it is unnecessary to put these words into what has become an emergency Bill. But as a matter of fact, the Government have control over the Colonies specified in the Bill.

Amendment negatived.

MR. J. H. ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I should be out of order in making any remarks as to the policy of granting these loans. But taking that for granted, it is very necessary that we should discuss the conditions under which the loans should be granted. The principal ground on which I ask the Committee to agree with the Amendment I now rise to move is, that it is necessary in the interest of the British taxpayer. No one will deny that in regard to these loans there is a greater element of risk than if the loans were made on home securities. First of all, there is the fact that the very position of the countries for which these loans are to be made is such that they are far more liable to changes in their financial condition than England. My second point is that, so far as I can understand, no real searching inquiry has been made into the position of, at all events, a number of the investments proposed in the Bill. If a similar loan were proposed to a local authority in England, the Local Government Board would inquire very carefully as to the exact conditions under which the loan would be made. No one in this House is more willing than I am to admit the exceptional business capacity of the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary; but it is not a question of his personal capacity, it is a question of principle. In the interests of financial security, the rate of interest should be higher than $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. The security cannot be so good as in a case where money is advanced on the security of local rates in

England; the nature of the undertaking prevents it; and, moreover, there is no practical security outside the undertaking itself. Take the case of the loan to the Gold Coast. In the year 1896-7 there was a deficit in the revenue of £45,000. It is true that, according to the statement distributed yesterday, the revenue for 1898 had gone up from £237,000 to £267,000, but there was no information given as to the expenditure, so that it is impossible to see whether that increase is any proof of enhanced security. In the case of Jamaica, it is proposed to advance a sum of £150,000. Since 1891 up to the present time, with the exception of the years 1894 and 1895, there has been a very large annual deficit, which, last year, amounted to the huge sum of £154,000. Under these circumstances, how can it be said that it is a sound transaction financially to advance this sum at such a low rate of interest? It is proposed to advance to the railway £88,000 for arrears in debenture interest, and £110,000 for the further construction of the railway. The Government of the colony is involved in an annual charge amounting to something like £35,000 in respect of that railway. Again I ask, how can this proposal be defended on financial grounds? Then it must be remembered that these loans do not form a first charge upon these undertakings. In Clause 2 it is provided that these loans should have priority over subsequent charges, but everyone knows that the security for a loan of this kind depends, not upon subsequent charges, but upon what comes before. I have tried to measure the element of risk involved, and now comes the question whether the minimum rate of interest which I propose is too high. In reference to loans made upon the security of local rates in this country, the scale of the Public Works Loans Board, under the Education Act and the Public Health Act, was, for loans to be repaid in thirty-five years, $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.; forty years, $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.; fifty years, 4 per cent. That was prior to 1897, in which year the rate of interest was altered in the case of a thirty years' loan to $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.; forty years, 3 per cent.; fifty years, $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. That brings it to within $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. of the minimum rate which I propose. The nature of the securities upon which we propose to advance money to the colonies, and the position of the

colonies themselves, make it necessary to provide a reserve against loss; and, taking the average rate of interest as being 3 per cent., I do not think that $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. is too large a percentage for that purpose. Another reason why this rate of interest should be higher is in the interests of justice to the field of home investments. It seems to me that there are a great many classes of investments in this country upon which money of this kind could be lent, and it is rather unjust to our own people to go out of our way to lend it at a low rate of interest outside the country, unless you base the whole of the policy upon the necessity of doing something by way of relief to these colonies. From the purely business standpoint, my case is a very strong one. With regard to the Malay Straits, is proposed to advance half a million upon a railway. That railway has been constructed for 175 miles at a cost of £850,000, and has paid on an average 8 per cent. upon the cost. It is surely unnecessary for Parliament to sanction a loan of British public money to an undertaking in that position. I submit that if the security upon which these loans are to be made is a good one, there ought to be no difficulty in getting money through the ordinary channels of investment. On the other hand, if the security is a bad one, or not in every way a sound one, the money should not be lent without providing a certain margin to correspond with that greater element of risk. I hope the right hon. Gentleman, if he cannot agree to the full Amendment I propose, will, at all events, make the minimum rate of interest something above $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., as it now stands in the Bill.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 15, to leave out the words 'two and three quarters,' and insert the words 'three and one-half.'"—(*Mr. J. H. Roberts.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The acceptance of the Amendment would unnecessarily fetter the discretion of the Treasury, and I hope, after the explanation I made earlier in the discussion, the Amendment will not be pressed. We are not now attempting to lay down the principles of any

Mr. J. H. Roberts.

great scheme of loans to colonies, but are dealing with an emergency Bill. The hon. Member in his concluding observations said, if the security by the colonies was good, he could see no reason why they should ask for Government assistance. That the security is good is proved by the fact that the colonies have been enabled to contract similar loans at 3 per cent., but the market would only take a certain amount of stock in a given period, and owing to the delay, to which frequent reference has been made, the amount the Crown agents have to place is very much above the average, and these able officials have found it impossible to place it all. It is for this reason, and for this reason alone, that we ask the House to provide the means, and I sincerely hope I shall never have to come again for such assistance, for though there are advantages on both sides, seeing the objections raised, it would probably not be worth while to raise the question again. The hon. Member says that $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. is too low a rate, but that is the limit at present of the Public Works Loan Commissioners, and the practice is to vary the interest according to the terms of the loan, a practice that will be followed under the Bill. It is not to be assumed that the minimum will be the actual rate in all cases. Two colonies have been mentioned by way of illustration, and it may interest the Committee and tend to shorten discussion if, in anticipation of the discussion on the schedule, where these points may more properly arise, I refer to these cases. Taking first the Gold Coast, I find that colony in a most prosperous condition. True, it has a debt, and that may seem inconsistent with my last statement, but the debt arises from the deficits created by the Ashanti war and expenditure in the northern parts of the territory, separate items unconnected with the ordinary balance of accounts, for the territory may be considered as a separate colony, though for convenience the accounts have been mixed up with the administration of the southern portion. It is the intention of the Government to introduce a separate administration for the northern territory, when the accounts will be kept separate. But for the deficits arising from the Ashanti war, and expenditure in connection with the French proceedings in the hinterland of the Gold Coast, there would have been a large surplus. In 1897 the revenue was

£287,000, and in 1898 it was £267,000 ; while in the first half of the present year it was £169,000, and it is estimated for the year at £338,000, an increase of something like 40 per cent. On the other hand, the expenditure for the first half of 1899 was £142,000, or for the year £284,000, and if this continues there will probably be a surplus of £54,000 on the year as between revenue and expenditure. The loan which is required is for a railway, which there is every reason to believe will be an extremely profitable undertaking. My opinion is based on the report of an expert who has made an exhaustive examination as to the probable cost of construction of the line and its returns. So that, quite independently of the fact that the colony is in a good financial condition, there is every reason to believe that the expenditure now contemplated will add to the revenue. The security will be the whole of the assets, the whole of the revenue of the colony ; any surplus from the railway will go to the assets, and thus become answerable for the whole of the loan. In my opinion this is the best security that could be found, and I have not the slightest doubt that the money could be obtained in the market at 3 per cent., and I hope when the emergency is overcome by what I hope will be the decision of the House it will be unnecessary to come to Parliament again. Then the hon. Member went on to speak of the case of Jamaica. Jamaica is a typical case of a colony at present in great financial stress and needing help. There can be no doubt whatever in the mind of anyone who has read Sir D. Barbour's Report that Jamaica will be able to pay its own way in time, though for a year or two the colony will be in considerable straits. I have given a great deal of anxious attention to the condition of things in the colony, due probably to insufficient control on the part of the home Government. But it must be borne in mind that a constitution was deliberately conferred on Jamaica the defect of which was to give to the elected members control of finances, and I cannot help saying they have made an "awful mess of it," and the time will soon come when it will be necessary for the home Government to have larger control, especially if they are to have responsibility. Prosperous times, with large surpluses, are followed by bad times, and instead of decreasing expenditure and increasing taxation the local Govern-

ment relied on its surplus, and having spent that began to create a deficit, which after several years has accumulated to the amount of £150,000. The bad state of affairs arose from the falling off in revenue due to general depression of trade in the West Indies, and more especially in the sugar industry. But at present things are better, trade with the United States is prosperous, and so long as this continues Jamaica will not only be able to make ends meet, but probably in a short time will arrive at a surplus. The local Government has been impressed with the necessity for economising expenditure and increasing taxation, and next year it is hoped the returns will show an equilibrium between revenue and expenditure. In the more prosperous times the elected members have made a somewhat improvident bargain in regard to a railway. Some American speculators issued debentures for the construction of the line, and the local Government gave a guarantee that if interest on the debentures failed they would take over the responsibility and give the debenture-holders $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. stock of the colony. I have nothing to say as to this bargain ; it was disapproved of at the Colonial Office, but my predecessor felt that, in the circumstances, a constitution having been granted to the colony, it was not his duty to do more than point out the objections, without putting a veto on the proposal. I do not in the least dispute the accuracy of the decision at which my predecessor arrived, though personally I regret it did not prevent the bargain being concluded. Ultimately no doubt the local Government will take over the railway, and that will for a time involve an annual deficit. The line has got into great disorganisation, the rolling stock is insufficient, and the expert sent out, having advised what should be done, thinks that in course of time, with proper management, the line can be made to pay. Meantime Jamaica will be put to additional expenditure to provide the deficit between cost of working and receipts, and will be called upon to pay the arrears of interest, £88,000, and to find £100,000 odd for the equipment of the railway. Jamaica is in the position that, if not assisted, it must become bankrupt. Does anybody in the House contemplate that, in the case of a Crown colony over which this country has a large measure of control—a control we should have to increase and probably will increase by an addition

to the number of official members on the local Government—does anybody contemplate our allowing such a colony to become bankrupt? I have made inquiry into this subject, for I am anxious to distinguish between the responsibility of the home Government and that of the colony, and I find that practically no distinction exists, except that under the present system we pay a higher rate of interest than we need. The actual state of affairs is this. Whether we do or do not guarantee a loan, we assume responsibility. We pay a higher rate in the market because we will not give in terms a guarantee which really in practice we have to maintain. No one can contemplate our allowing one of our colonies to repudiate its obligations, and that is a justification in my mind for the Bill. If the loan were not made, then I should have to ask the House to make a grant in aid, as in the case of smaller colonies in a bankrupt condition. I believe that if the loan were given at a reasonable rate of interest, in the course of two or three years, with the savings made and the reforms to be made, and the greater control the Colonial Office would be able to exercise, we should be able to bring this colony round without ultimate cost to the British Exchequer. I would suggest that the Amendment should be withdrawn, and that it should be left to the discretion of the Treasury what the rate of interest for a particular loan should be.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): We cannot allow a Crown colony to go bankrupt, and, whether we give a specific guarantee or not, if a Crown colony does not pay we shall have to pay. If the railroad paid they would derive the benefit of it; if it did not pay then the colony is to take it over. The Colonial Office was against that arrangement, and yet, if this doctrine be a true one, every Crown colony might enter into some sort of bargain of that kind and expend its credit in this reckless manner; and although the Colonial Office may protest against it we must make the loan. In Jamaica the Budget is voted by the elected Members, and they have spent money in the most reckless manner, and we are making ourselves liable for all their faults, and will have to pay if they cannot. The right hon. Gentleman says that this Bill is an emergency Bill, and

Mr. J. Chamberlain.

that it does not lay down any general principle of colonial loans. The colonies have been advised that a Bill was going to be brought in by which we would give our direct security for the loans, and they have not in consequence gone to borrow money in the open market, although, assuming that their security is as good as the Colonial Secretary suggests it is, the colonies could probably borrow for the next six months from banks and other sources at a cheaper rate than the Government could borrow on its own security. We are told that this is an emergency Bill and must be carried this session. I do not see the force of that contention, and I would suggest to the right hon. Gentleman as a compromise, having regard to the small number of Members now in the House, the majority having left because they understood that no contentious Bills would be taken at this period of the session, that in the interests of peace and harmony, he should provide for any loan that may be urgent, and that this Bill should be left until another time. We would agree to that course. This Bill does require great discussion, and I do not think that it should be forced through the House in this manner at this period. I trust that the Colonial Secretary will see his way to enter into some amicable arrangement such as I suggest.

MR. MONK (Gloucestershire): When I saw the schedule I must admit I stood aghast at the amount that was required for these loans, and the lack of information respecting them. We have now had some information, but, agreeing as I do with a great deal which fell from the hon. mover of this Amendment, I think the Committee are entitled to further information than they have received with regard to which of these loans will be made at 2½ per cent., and which will be made at the higher rate. No doubt some of these eleemosynary loans will be a total loss to this country. A portion of them will be really gifts, and not loans at all.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I think not. On the contrary, there will be no loss at all. The eleemosynary loan made to Barbados has been repaid.

MR. MONK: Of course, we are a wealthy country, and we ought to support our colonies in times of stress; but I do not see why so low a price should be charged for these loans. If the hon. Member had moved that the minimum rate should be 2 per cent. I should have gone into the Lobby with him. My reason for rising is to ask, first of all, what amount of these loans will be made at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and what amount will be made at the higher rate. If we can get that information now, or when we come to the schedule, it will greatly facilitate the matter we are discussing.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS-BEACH, Bristol, W.): I shall be happy to give the House any information in my power. I would remind the Committee that in introducing the Bill I stated that we should not make loans to the colonies under the Bill on better terms than to local authorities in the United Kingdom, and in certain cases I should think it right to require higher terms. In regard to Barbados and St. Vincent it is intended that the hurricane loan should be at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., repayable in twenty-three years. These are less favourable terms than are given to local bodies in England who repay in thirty years, and do not compare unfavourably, so far as the Treasury is concerned, with the Government guarantee of 3 per cent. given some years ago to the Mauritius under circumstances similar to those on which these loans are to be made to Barbados and St. Vincent. The loan to the Mauritius, I might remind the Committee, has never cost the United Kingdom a penny. With regard to the other cases, I think their governing principle will be that which I have already stated. I do not wish to make any undue profit out of these loans. It would be absurd to attempt to do so, and it would be grossly unfair to the colonies. But in each case I shall have to consider the position of the colony, the security offered, and, particularly, the length of time for which the loan may be desired. If a colony, owing to the nature of the work, desires that the repayment of the loan shall be extended over as long a period as fifty years, then we shall have to charge a higher rate of interest, just as we do in the United Kingdom. In each case the Treasury

and the Colonial Office will carefully examine into all the circumstances, with the view of fixing the interest and the repayment of principal on the basis I have indicated to the Committee.

MR. BUCHANAN: The explanation of the right hon. Gentleman meets in a measure the object which my hon. friend had in view. As I understand, the loans to Barbados and St. Vincent are given for twenty-three years. In regard to the Local Loans Act, the Treasury drew up a sliding scale, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer in this Bill appears to have started on the same lines, and I should like to ascertain from him that in the future he will continue to work on similar lines. There is just one other thing I should like to say. In the beginning of his statement, the Colonial Secretary told us that he hoped this Bill would be a final one, and would not be followed by similar Bills in coming years. But these loans, I take it, will occupy the same position as the loans made to the colonies by the Treasury under the old Act. I think the discussion would be greatly facilitated if we had an assurance from him that, so far as he was concerned, this Bill will not be followed by similar Bills in coming sessions.

Question put, and agreed to.

MR. BUCHANAN: The Amendment which I now wish to propose is to insure that the rate of interest for the loans shall be fixed by the Treasury alone. In cases of this sort, the Colonial Secretary is in the position of borrower; he makes a complete statement of what he believes to be the goodness of the security offered, and under those circumstances I think the Treasury alone should fix the rate at which the money is to be advanced. I anticipate that I shall get the support of the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer, having regard to the remarks he made just now, in which he implied that it was the work of the Treasury to fix the amount, and that they should accept the responsibility of so doing.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 16, to leave out the words 'and the Secretary of State.'"—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'and the Secretary of State' stand part of the clause."

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: I am afraid I cannot agree with my hon. friend in this. It would not be fair that the Treasury alone should settle the matter. The colony will have to pay, and the Secretary for the Colonies is responsible for the colonies. I therefore do not think it right that he should be omitted from all voice and control in the matter.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR: I see from the clause that these loans are to be regarded as local loans within the meaning of the Local Loans Act. In that Act alone the Treasury is responsible for fixing the interest. In this case there will be, of course, communication between the two offices, and the Treasury would be

advised as to the opinion of the Colonial Office, and under the circumstances I do not think the Colonial Secretary should have any voice as to the interest to be paid.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: Under the Local Loans Act the Treasury lays down certain rates of interest, that is all. The application of those rates of interest to particular cases does not depend upon them at all, but upon an entirely different body.

MR. PERKS (Lincolnshire, Louth): The rates would vary according to the credit of the colony, and if the colony has not an advocate in the shape of the Colonial Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer might fix a rate of interest which would be unjust to the colony, whilst at the same time this Bill precludes the colony from borrowing in the open market.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 124; Noes, 27 (Division List, No. 329).

AYES.

Aird, John
Arnold, Alfred
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. J. FitzRoy
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. B. (Cleckm.)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederick Gorell
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bnd, Edward
Boulnois, Edmund
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, A. Montagu
Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birmingham)
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worcester)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Curzon, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dickson-Poynder, Sir J. P.
Donkin, Richard Sim
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, William Theodore

Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir R. Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fry, Lewis
Galloway, William Johnson
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. George's)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. Wm.
Harwood, George
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale
Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Barnes)
Howard, Joseph
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kenyon, James
Knowles, Lees
Lafone, Alfred
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Cornwall)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)

Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
Lowe, Francis William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdonald, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
MacLure, Sir John William
McCrae, George
Monk, Charles James
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N. I.)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
Morton, A. H. A. (Deftford)
Moss, Samuel
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, F. Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Oldroyd, Mark
Parkes, Ebenezer
Perks, Robert William
Pierpoint, Robert
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rentoul, James Alexander
Richards, Henry Charles
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
Russell, T. W. (Tyrrone)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sidebottom, William (Derbyshire)
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)

Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf. Univ.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Wm. Ed. Murray
 Tritten, Charles Ernest

Ure, Alexander
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-

Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Billson, Alfred
 Blake, Edward
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Caldwell, James
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)

Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Jones, W. (Carnarvonshire)
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Macaleese, Daniel
 McLeod, John
 Maddison, Fred
 Maden, John Henry
 Moore, Arthur (Londonderry)

Pirie, Duncan V.
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
 Yoxall, James Henry
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Buchanau and Captain
 Sinclair.

MR. BUCHANAN: I now move to insert the words "together with the annual interest accruing thereon." I will ask the right hon. Gentleman whether they are necessary having regard to the last words of the sub-section, for it is clear that in a considerable number of cases the colony will not be expected to pay the annual interest on the loan from the beginning.

Amendment proposed:—

"In page 1, line 18, after 'and,' to insert 'together with the annual interest accruing thereon.'"—(Mr. Buchanan.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH said the words were not necessary.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. J. H. ROBERTS: I have now to move an Amendment limiting the period for the repayment of loans to thirty years. I do not think that that term should be exceeded except under very exceptional circumstances. In this case the security is very inferior to the security given by our own local authorities for loans, the repayment of which is spread over longer periods, and I therefore trust the Government will make some concession, otherwise I shall be compelled reluctantly to divide the committee.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 19, to leave out 'fifty' and insert 'thirty.'"—(Mr. J. H. Roberts.)

Question proposed, "That the word 'fifty' stand part of the clause."

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: I am afraid we cannot accept this Amendment. I may, however, point out that the Colonies may be induced to borrow for shorter periods by the fact that in such cases a lower rate of interest is charged.

MR. J. H. ROBERTS: Although I feel strongly on this point, I am aware it is quite hopeless to press the Amendment, and I therefore ask leave to withdraw it.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Question proposed, "That Clause F. stand part of the Bill."

MR. BUCHANAN: I think we have reason to complain of the course which has been pursued by the Government in regard to this Bill. They have delayed giving us the necessary explanations of its provisions, and certainly that is not a way calculated to commend this legislation to the favour of the House. It is incumbent on us to protest against the introduction of an important measure like this at the fag end of the session, and without adequate explanation, and I therefore think we should divide against this clause as a whole.

MR. LABOUCHERE: The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that this is an emergency Bill, and that the Government did not anticipate a large extension of the loans. But £3,300,000 is a very large

extension indeed. The right hon. Gentleman also said that we should have a full explanation of all the different items. Most unquestionably we have not had that, or any explanation of any sort or kind. As to the Bill being an emergency Bill, it is not an emergency Bill in the sense in which that word is generally applied, because the colonies could get on very well by borrowing the money until next year, and we could then discuss whether or not we should give them a guarantee. The colonies would not be in any sort of way damnified by the Bill being carried over. In view of the fact that we had no explanation on the Second Reading, we are bound to do our utmost at this late period of the session to protest against everything in connection with this Bill. The minority in the last Division was not what I would call large, but that was because a great many Members on this side of the House have gone away, leaving us to keep watch and ward over the public expenditure. We therefore represent not only ourselves and our constituents, but also the vast mass of Members who confided their interests to us, and under these circumstances I think my hon. friend ought to go to a Division.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: The Party of which the hon. Member is a distinguished member does not appear any more united on this question than on most others. A full explanation has been given to the House of the proposals of this Bill.

MR. LABOUCHERE: When?

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: In the Paper which has been circulated among hon. Members. Some hon. Members appear to think that the sum of £3,300,000 is enormous, but it compares favourably with the loans to local authorities which have been sanctioned by Parliament, and which this year have reached a total of £7,000,000.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR: I am sure the House is ready to extend every consideration to the Government for carrying on the business of the country. The Secretary of State for the Colonies has told us that the finances of Jamaica are very

Mr. Labouchere.

intricate. The Blue Book containing Sir David Barbour's Report was only issued to us on Monday, and in debating these intricate proposals we are placed at a very considerable disadvantage by not having had the necessary information supplied to us. Though the Secretary of State for the Colonies has declared that this Bill is an emergency Bill, yet long after these debates are forgotten the Act will remain on the Statute Book, and it will open the door to consequences which none of us are able to foresee or prevent. The hon. Member for Lincoln pointed out that this Bill practically closed the old method of borrowing for the Crown Colonies, and last year the Chancellor of the Exchequer pointed to the possibility of consolidating the debts of all the Crown Colonies. These are two very large consequences flowing from this measure, and I think we are justified in the interests of the one man who seems to be forgotten in this Debate, namely the taxpayer of this country, in making a very strong protest against this proposal being brought before the House at so late a period of the session.

SIR H. H. FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): I quite appreciated the objection raised on the Second Reading of the Bill with reference to the non-presentation of information in respect to the loans in the schedule, and I think the House generally concurred in the view suggested by the Leader of the Opposition yesterday, that the Committee stage should not be undertaken until the document prepared for the Secretary of State for the Colonies was in the hands of the Members. We all know the delay which has occurred is not the fault of the Colonial Office or of the Government, but of the printers of the House. ("No, no.") Well, I am speaking from my own experience. What I want to say, without expressing any opinion on the items, is that this Bill was fully discussed on the Second Reading, and that the House of Commons assented to and approved its principle. The Amendment now before us to leave out Clause 1 is really a proposal to reverse the previous decision of the House. I claim myself to be as strong an advocate of economy and of strict supervision of public expenditure as any man in the House, but I have come to the conclusion, which I think it is my duty to state, that this is a very

desirable change in our fiscal system. I am not going into the question of the Colonial Funds Bill, which the Chancellor of the Exchequer has withdrawn, but I hope he will bring it in again next year. I think it will be an improvement so far as the colonies are concerned, and also so far as our general fiscal system is concerned. But, at all events, that stands over, and the question now before us is whether we will or will not pass what appears to me to be an administrative Bill in order to enable the colonies to carry out their more or less pressing obligations. The present motion before the Committee is whether or not we are going to reject the Bill altogether, because if this Amendment is carried there is an end to the whole measure. I am not prepared to reject the Bill. I think there are a great many loans in this schedule which ought to be made, but that is a question of detail, and I appeal to my right hon. friends not to ask the Committee to again decide what has been already decided by the House on the Second Reading.

MR. BUCHANAN: I am sorry I cannot respond to the appeal of my right hon. friend. One of his statements

astonishes me. He said that the principle of the Bill had been fully discussed on the Second Reading. But the discussion only lasted an hour and a half, and the speeches of the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. Member for Poplar occupied a third of that time.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member cannot review the Debate on the Second Reading.

MR. BUCHANAN: I have no desire to review the Debate, but I maintain that the principle of the Bill was not discussed on the Second Reading, and that we are justified in opposing the details on the ground that the Bill was introduced at the end of the session, and was not fully explained, as was promised by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. On these grounds, and in defence of the interests of the British Treasury and of good legislation, I shall most certainly divide the Committee.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 123 ; Noes, 30. (Division List, No. 330.)

AYES.

Aird, John
Arnold, Alfred
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. J. Blair (Clackm)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bigwood, James
Billson, Alfred
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Boulnois, Edmund
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, A. Montagu
Caldwell, James
Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
Causton, Richard Knight
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Curzon, Viscount

Dalkeith, Earl of
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Donkin, Richard Sim
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, William Theodore
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fry, Lewis
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. Ger's)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert W.
Harwood, George
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. C. Seale-
Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bow)
Holland, W. H. (York, W. R.)
Howard, Joseph

Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kenyon, James
Knowles, Lees
Lafone, Alfred
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Corn.)
Lawrence, W. F. (Liverpool)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn- (Sw'n's a.)
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine-
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverp'l)
Lowe, Francis William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maclure, Sir John William
McCrae, George
Monk, Charles James
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Oldroyd, Mark
Parkes, Ebenezer
Perks, Robert William
Pierpoint, Robert
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert

Rentoul, James Alexander
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Runciman, Walter
 Russell, Gen. F.S. (Cheltenham)
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbysh.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Spencer, Ernest

Stanley, Edw. J. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Ure, Alexander
 Valentia, Viscount

Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Williams, Jos. Powell (Birm.)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Blake, Edward
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Crilly, Daniel
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Evans, Sir Francis H. (South'ton)
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)

Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, William (Carn'r vonshire)
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'l'nd)
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Macaleese, Daniel
 McLeod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry

Moss, Samuel
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Wallace, Robert
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
 Yoxall, James Henry
TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Buchanan and Captain
 Sinclair.

Clause 2 :—

MR. BUCHANAN : The object of the Amendment I now move is to prevent the legislative authority from passing any Act diminishing the security. The words of the Statute could not be too precise, and my Amendment, I think, will infuse more precision into the somewhat vague words of the clause.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 25, to leave out from 'made' to end of line 26, and insert, 'has passed an Act or Ordinance which provides.'"
 —(*Mr. Buchanan.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

***SIR M. HICKS-BEACH :** I do not quite understand the meaning which the hon. Member has in his mind. The words in the Bill are very plain, requiring that the loan should be provided for in a legal way ; and the colonial authority cannot do that except by an Act, Ordinance, or something corresponding to an Act or Ordinance. I do not think the words are necessary.

MR. BUCHANAN : The words in Sub-section 2 are very definite indeed, and I thought there was probably some reason for that.

***SIR M. HICKS-BEACH :** That is obvious, because there you have to refer to an Act or Ordinance.

Amendment negatived.

MR. BUCHANAN : My object in moving this Amendment is, if possible, to increase the security to the Treasury in advancing the money. In cases in which the loans are to be made for the construction of reproductive works, such as a railway, I think the money advanced from the British Treasury ought to be so advanced not only on the security of the Colony itself, but on a first charge on the works themselves, and the revenue from them. I think in 1885, in the case of a Cape Act, a loan for the construction of the railway to Kimberley was made, not only on the security of the Colony, but on that of the revenue of the railway itself.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 27, at end to insert '(b) for securing the loan as a first charge upon any works which may be created out of the proceeds of the said loan, and for applying the surplus revenues of such works in repayment of the loans.'"
 —(*Mr. Buchanan.*)

Question proposed, "That these words be there inserted."

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN : I think I answered this by anticipation earlier in the day. As a matter of fact, any such surplus or profit will go to the general revenue, and the whole of the general revenue and the whole of the assets of the colony will be pledged. Therefore,

it is quite unnecessary to put in these words. I may point out as an analogous case that the security of the assets of a corporation or local authority is considered sufficient for loans under the Public Works Loans Act.

MR. CALDWELL: I had an Amendment of this kind on the Colonial Loans Fund Bill, which was withdrawn. I think the Amendment is a very reasonable one. Supposing the Government advances money to make a railway, the loan ought to be made a first charge on the railway, in order to secure the money to the State. It is obvious that what is intended by the clause is that there should be priority at the time of the advance, but there could not be any priority, because if the colony had no assets they could not pay anything, and the priority would go. I think the Amendment is a reasonable one, and I trust the right hon. Gentleman will accept it.

Amendment negatived.

MR. J. H. ROBERTS, in moving to substitute "Parliament" for "the Treasury and the Secretary of State," said his object was to secure that, in the

event of any alteration in the conditions of the security, the matter should first come before Parliament.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 17, to leave out the words 'the Treasury and the Secretary of State,' and insert the word 'Parliament'—(*Mr. Herbert Roberts*)—instead thereof."

Question proposed, "That the words 'the Treasury and the Secretary of State' stand part of the Clause."

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH said that he could not accept the Amendment. It would be absolutely unconstitutional and novel procedure for Parliament to have anything to say as to the voiding of the Ordinances of Colonial Legislatures. That power was vested in the Secretary of State. The Treasury was added in order to safeguard the matter from a financial point of view.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 116; Noes, 47. (Division List, No. 331.)

AYES.

Aird, John
Allsopp, Hon. George
Arnold, Alfred
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
Carille, William Walter
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birmingham)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
Cox, Irwin E. Bainbridge
Curzon, Viscount

Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Donkin, Richard Sim
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, William Theodore
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Fry, Lewis
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. R. W.
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampstead)
Holland, Hon. Lionel R. (Bourne)
Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Knowles, Lees

Lafone, Alfred
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Cornwall)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewellyn, Sir Dillwyn- (Swansea)
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Leeds)
Lowe, Francis William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdonald, John Cumming
Maclure, Sir John William
Manners, Lord Edw. Wm. J.
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
Monk, Charles James
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.I.)
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morton, A. H. A. (Devonport)
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Oldroyd, Mark
Parke, Ebenezer
Perks, Robert William
Pierpoint, Robert
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert

Rantoul, James Alexander
 Russell, Gen. F.S. (Cheltenham)
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebottom, W. (Derbyshire)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)

Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Ure, Alexander
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Williams, J. Powell- (Birm.)

Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Maj. W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke d'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir
 William Walrond and Mr.
 Anstruther.

NOES.

Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. B. (Clackm.)
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Billson, Alfred
 Birrell, Augustine
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Chas. (Glasgow)
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Evans, Sir Francis H. (South'ton)
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Griffith, Ellis J.

Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
 Hazell, Walter
 Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
 Hedderwick, Thomas Chas. H.
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
 Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hon. Sir U.
 Langley, Batty
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Crae, George
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred
 Maden, John Henry

Moore, Arthur (Londonderry)
 Moes, Samuel
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Runciman, Walter
 Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Souttar, Robinson
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Tennant, Harold John
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, J. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES.—
 Mr. Herbert Roberts and
 Mr. Labouchere.

Clause agreed to.

Schedule :—

MR. LABOUCHERE, in moving the omission of the Gold Coast as one of the colonies entitled to participate in the loans both in respect of its railways and the Accra harbour works, said the right hon. Gentleman had inferred that the finances of that colony were in a flourishing condition, and that we should be repaid every penny of the loan, and that the security offered was in fact A 1 security. In his opinion the published Returns of 1897 hardly bore out the view of the Colonial Secretary as to the peculiarly excellent financial position of this colony. In 1887 there was a deficit of £17,000, in 1888, £35,000, in 1889, £19,000, in 1894, £8,000, in 1895, £35,000, and in 1896, £44,000. The total revenue was £237,000. Customs produced £199,000, and the spirits imported paid in Customs duties £132,108. Their object was, as far as they could, to prevent spirits from being imported, and if the revenue from spirits was taken away there was an enormous deficit. Really they ought to look a little into what some of those colonies were. The official population of the Gold Coast was 160, of whom last year six died and 31 were invalided; the non-official white

population was 362, of whom 34 died and 47 were invalided. The fact was, there were hardly any Europeans who would go there, because they would not risk the climate, and it was hardly a place that was likely to be converted into a wealthy colony. At all events, he saw no reason why this country should step in and find the money for making a railway there, because there was no probability that it would pay or extend the trade of the country. The Secretary for the Colonies was a good business man, but he had a fad in his head; he wanted to develop the colonies. This was a rotten place to develop. It was not worth while to expend £500,000 on the security of the revenues of this colony, which were not sufficient to meet the present expenditure. In these circumstances he begged to move his Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 6, to leave out the words from the word 'Gold' to '£96,000,' both inclusive."—(Mr. Labouchere.)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the schedule."

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN said the hon. Gentleman, who rather regarded himself as

a politician of advanced views, was, on the present occasion, nothing but a fossil. His views were the views which were held by his predecessors in the early sixties, and had been altogether altered and changed, so far as the majority of the people were concerned, by subsequent experience. It was perfectly true that there were few Europeans in this particular colony, and he did not suppose there ever would be a large European colonisation of tropical Africa; but if the hon. Gentleman inferred from that that tropical Africa was of no advantage to Europeans because there was no trade worth having, he was entirely mistaken. So far from the Gold Coast being a bankrupt colony, the trade, imports and exports, is at the rate of £2,400,000 per annum. For a long series of years it had surpluses, and it was only in 1894 that the deficits began; and how did they begin? The colony, having procured surpluses amounting in the total to £139,000, began to feel itself justified in embarking upon large expenditure on public works, and, above all, sanitary improvements. For some time the amount so expended did not swallow up the surpluses; but then came the Ashanti war, and the deficit mounted up to £168,000. That left a debt which—although he was convinced it was a good debt—the Treasury would probably have to allow to run for a year or two until they gained back a period of surpluses, when they would pay it off as rapidly as possible. Why was this place called the Gold Coast? Because, as had been perfectly well known for centuries and centuries back, it was a great place for gold; the gold of our early days always being derived from the washings of the rivers. But now, with modern machinery and the advantage of modern science, we were able to deal with the places from which the gold comes from the quartz in the rocks, and many persons who had gone into the interior prospecting had returned very sanguine as to the investment of their money. The public took a similar view, because, in regard to some of these companies, although subsidiary companies were not issued, so well did the investing public look upon the undertakings, that the shares had gone up 1,500 and 2,000 per cent. That showed that in the belief of those who were well-informed there was a splendid opportunity for gold mining over this large area. Ten years ago the export of gold

from the Transvaal was £80,000, and who could say that ten years hence the gold from West Africa might not bear a similar proportion to the growth of the gold export from the Transvaal? The reason why the export up to the present was so small was that they had not got up the heavy machinery required for modern gold mining, owing to the primitive method of transport which prevailed in those tropical climates. The Colonial Office had taken the best advice, and had good authority for assuming that the proposed investment would be an admirable one for the colony, and a perfectly sound one for this country to guarantee. As regards the harbour at Accra, it was a misfortune that there was no good harbour there, the bar constituting a difficulty. In the opinion of the great engineers who had been consulted, great improvements might be made by deepening the harbour. A moderate sum was asked for that, and here again the expenditure was fully justified by the condition of the colony. He recognised that the hon. Gentleman had the power of causing a great deal of unnecessary trouble to a good number of hon. Members. He implored him, as he was strong, to be merciful. Their advisers, the Crown Agents, who, he thought, were entitled to speak with authority on the subject, told them that they would be placed in a most serious and embarrassing position if the Bill were not passed. Therefore the Government were obliged to press the Bill, and no good would be gained by delaying its progress, so far as regarded any alteration of its terms. Hon. Gentlemen had expressed themselves aggrieved by what they regarded as arbitrary conduct on the part of the Government; but he appealed to the Committee whether there was any ground for a punitive expedition on the present occasion. The Government had yielded to the Opposition. They understood it would materially promote the rapid progress of this Bill if they abandoned the Colonial Loans Bill. They had withdrawn the latter Bill, and, as he had said, there was no prospect of its introduction; at least, he did not favour such a course. Again, yesterday, in deference to the Leader of the Opposition, who also assured them they would materially promote the conduct of public business by yielding to his request, they agreed to postpone the discussion on this Bill, in order that hon. Members

might have an opportunity of studying the information they had provided. They had in every way endeavoured to meet the Opposition. He quite recognised that hon. Members like the hon. Members for East Aberdeenshire and Forfar might desire to make a solemn protest against the principle of the Bill. He hoped they had a distinguished career before them, and, if they had, he ventured to think that they would regret the course they had taken to-day, and that they would find themselves some day or other in a position in which they would have to take a totally different line. But perhaps that was too far off to look forward to. In any case, granted the perfect right of those hon. Members to make their protest, he appealed to them whether they had not now made a sufficient protest. As to the hon. Member for Northampton, he would say, let him by all means take a Division upon the Amendment he had moved, which would be a typical Division. If there was any other colony as to which he had any particular Amendment to move, it would be perfectly reasonable he should take a Division upon it, but he hoped the hon. Gentleman would not put the Committee to the trouble of walking through the Lobbies indefinitely with no practical result, especially in view of the conciliatory attitude which it must be allowed the Government had adopted.

MR. LABOUCHERE: The right hon. Gentleman says he has adopted every plan to meet our objections, but there is one plan he has not tried—that of withdrawing the Bill.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I cannot.

MR. LABOUCHERE: I have already shown how it can be done. These colonies can carry over; they have borrowed at a little under the bank rate, and can go on till next year. Our primary complaint is that the Bill is brought in at a time when we are left here to carry on the discussion without those Gentlemen who have gone away supposing there were no controversial matters to come forward. The right hon. Gentleman asked me to make this a test Division, and only to divide upon any loan to which I particularly objected. But what am I to do if I particularly object to all of them?

Mr. J. Chamberlain.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Take one as a sample.

MR. LABOUCHERE: I have got diverse and special reasons to submit against each. It is suggested that I should take a Division against the items altogether. That appears reasonable at first sight, but, while there are excellent reasons against all, there are stronger arguments against some than against others, and therefore, in regard to particular items, I should get a better Division, and accentuate my views more by dividing upon the different items. But, after all, the right hon. Gentleman will get away on Wednesday; there is nothing else to do to-day. We are not obstructing; we are simply carrying out what we believe to be our duty.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I wish to assist the hon. Gentleman in his desire to get through the business as quickly as his conscience will allow him. I therefore suggest to the hon. Member that he should take a Division against the schedule as a whole, and then anyone who objects to any particular item will vote against the schedule, and in that way he will get a bigger Division than he could get under any other circumstances.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR: After the speech of the right hon. Gentleman it is a most invidious task for anyone to stand here to make any remarks upon this Bill, but I submit that the responsibility rests with the right hon. Gentleman himself. I would challenge him to find any previous instance of such a measure as this, involving such a large financial burden on the country, being given so short a time for its discussion. Certainly no suggestion of obstruction can be justified. If, however, the House shows any decided feeling in favour of terminating the Debate I shall not stand in the way, but I am entitled to make a few observations upon the Amendment which has been moved, and the reply which has been made. The question we have discussed is whether this railway should be made. The proposal can be divided distinctly into two parts. One half is a railway which has already been begun, and which the Colonial Office have approved, and the other half is an undertaking which the

Colonial Office have not approved, and which has in no sense been accepted as a wise investment or undertaking. The basis of profits in regard to this railway is practically the gold mines. The right hon. Gentleman submitted that it was a very good investment, and that there would be no difficulty in getting that loan taken up in the open market. That obviously calls forth the retort that it is a pity it was not left to the open market to take up. Development is going on in all parts of the world, and it is only natural that the Colonial Secretary should wish to develop as quickly as possible those parts with which he is specially concerned. But we are going too fast. If we are to dash in at once wherever there is a prospect of a remunerative investment in any part of the world, we shall be landed in very large undertakings, which at a future time it may be very difficult to fulfil. Another aspect of the question is that the revenue of this colony depends very largely on spirits, from 60 per cent. to 70 per cent. of the revenue being derived from that source. If we raise this loan and make the colony liable for it, we shall be practically riveting upon the colony the present methods of raising the revenue, and it will be very difficult to free them from this liquor traffic, or to proceed in the direction in which the right hon. Gentleman wishes to proceed, viz., of the restriction of the importation and sale of spirits. I am not one who would wish to restrict the expenditure on the colonies, but I certainly think, on the grounds I have put forward, there is some reason for hesitating to confirm, at any rate, the latter part of this proposal. I should also like to ask how it is proposed to construct these railways, and by what labour the existing portion has been constructed.

MR. BUCHANAN: The right hon. Gentleman himself told us that the time for discussing this Bill was on the schedule. We have now just reached the schedule, and we are endeavouring to extract some information with regard to the different loans. The proposals under this first item are of two kinds. First, to complete and go on with railways already in course of construction. That railway is to go to the gold mines, and if the gold mines are successful the railway will be successful; if there is not paying gold

there the railway will fail. That means that this railway is part of a gold mining speculation. Why should the Government with the aid of the Imperial Treasury step in to assist individuals who, no doubt, with a view to their own interests have gone into a gold mining speculation on the Gold Coast of Africa? The portion of this undertaking which has been sanctioned by the Colonial Office stands on an entirely different foundation from the other. In regard to the latter there is no emergency, and the right hon. Gentleman ought not to endeavour to get upwards of half a million of money when he has only a fair claim to about half that sum. We should also like to have some information as to what form of labour is being used in the construction of this railway, and is to be used on future railways. There is an Ordinance in the Gold Coast Colony which enables forced labour to be used. What security have we, if Imperial money is advanced for this purpose, that these railways will be constructed under conditions which will give no encouragement, either direct or indirect, to the employment of forced labour or any form of slavery?

MR. LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): The latest Returns that we have appear to contradict the statement which has been made with regard to the decrease in the trade in spirits. In the year 1896 833,000 gallons of rum were imported, in 1897 878,000, showing an increase of 44,000 gallons, while there was a total increase in the importation of liquor of nearly 50,000 gallons. The right hon. Gentleman seemed to imply that the revenue from liquor did not form a large proportion of the total revenue of the country, but a reference to figures shows that while the total Customs receipts amounted to £193,000, the receipts in respect of spirits amounted to £132,000. It is, therefore, obvious that as far as its revenue is concerned the colony is now practically on a basis of liquor. The present proposals tend to perpetuate that, just as the large revenues derived by India from the opium trade have tended to perpetuate that trade, with all its baneful effects. The official Return with regard to the revenues shows that the security is not a good one for the amount which is being advanced. It is also perfectly true that a large portion of the money may not be required at all, as

the construction of certain lines has not yet been decided upon. Is it not therefore reasonable that we should wait before we vote this amount in order to ascertain whether these undertakings will be proceeded with or not? The whole question is of such a speculative character that I

think we are justified in making a reasonable protest against the proposal.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 140; Noes, 43. (Division List, No. 332.)

AYES.

Aird, John
Allsopp, Hon. George
Arnold, Alfred
Arrol, Sir William
Asher, Alexander
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. B. (Clackmannan)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Beach, W. W. B. (Hants.)
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boocawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, A. Montagu
Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
Carlile, William Walter
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Chaloner, Capt. R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worcester)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Cochrane, Hn. T. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
Curzon, Viscount
Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Donkin, Richard Sim
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, William Theodore
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Fellows, Hon. Ailwyn Edwd.
Finch, George H.

Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fry, Lewis
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gilliat, John Saunders
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. George's)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. R. W.
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Hoare, Edw. B. (Hampstead)
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, Joseph
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hn. Sir U.
Knowles, Lees
Lafone, Alfred
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Corn)
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewellyn, Sir Dillwyn- (Swans.)
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverpool)
Lowe, Francis William
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdonald, John Cumming
Maclure, Sir John William
Manners, Lord Edward W. J.
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
Monk, Charles James
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Rbt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)

Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, F. Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Oldroyd, Mark
Parkes, Ebenezer
Perks, Robert William
Pierpoint, Robert
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Russell, Gen. F. S. (Chelt'nh'm)
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sidebottom, William (Derbyshire)
Simcoe, Sir Barrington
Smith, James P. (Lanarkshire)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spencer, Ernest
Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf. Univ.)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, W. E. Murray
Ure, Alexander
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
Williams, Joseph Powell- (Birm.)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorkshire)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arey
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Augustine
Broadhurst, Henry
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Dalziel, James Henry

Mr. J. H. Lewis.

Dillon, John
Evans, Sir F. H. (Southampton)
Fenwick, Charles
Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)
Horniman, Frederick John
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb.)
Macaleese, Daniel

M'Crae, George
M'Ewan, William
M'Leod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Maden, John Henry
Mappin, Sir Fred. Thorne
Molloy, Bernard Charles
Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
Moss, Samuel
Norton, Capt. Cecil Williams
Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)

Pirie, Duncan V.
Robson, William Snowdon
Runciman, Walter
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfars.)
Steadman, William Charles

Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Tennant, Harold John
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.)
Williams, J. Carvell (Notts)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Labouchere and Mr.
Herbert Lewis.

MR. LABOUCHERE: I move to omit "Niger Coast Protectorate Harbour Works, £43,500." The arguments are to a considerable extent the same as on the previous item. There is no reason if you make railways on the Gold Coast why you should make harbours at Accra and Calabar. The right hon. Gentleman has given up the point that these places are in any way fit for habitation by Europeans. The white population, exclusive, I presume, of officials is stated to be 200, and the revenue is £153,000, of which £116,730 is derived from spirits. The right hon. Gentleman said that it was his desire that the liquor traffic should be reduced. But most unquestionably it has not been reduced in those parts, because the amount of liquor sold in 1897-98 was a little over £23,000 more than was sold in 1896-97. We do not profit ourselves by this huge liquor traffic; it is the Germans who send liquor from Hamburg that profit, £63,861 worth of gin being introduced by other countries as against £1,331 worth by us. I will put the matter on a practical basis. Is a colony with a population of two hundred Europeans, with the revenue dependent on the duty charged on liquor, good security for the expenditure of money in that particular colony?

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 8, to leave out the words from the word 'Niger,' to '£43,500,' inclusive."—(Mr. Labouchere.)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Schedule."

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I cannot say much in answer to the right hon. Gentleman, because it will only be a repetition of what I have said already. The Niger Coast Protectorate is a promising colony, and there is no reason to believe that there will be any deficit. These works are eminently necessary, some of them were commenced before I had any control over the Protectorate, and I am not answerable for them in that sense, although I thoroughly approve of them. They are necessary works, they will be remunerative, and I think there is ample security.

MR. LEWIS: The right hon. Gentleman has said that these works will be remunerative, but there is no note to that effect in the statement which has been issued. Will there be any income to justify the British taxpayer in paying this money?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I hope so. I take exception to the words "British taxpayer" because he is not asked to spend anything, and I do not think he will be called upon to do so.

Question put.

Committee divided: Ayes, 148; Noes, 39. (Division List, No. 333.)

AYES.

Aird, John
Allsopp, Hon. George
Arnold, Alfred
Arrol, Sir William
Asher, Alexander
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. B. (Clackm.)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. A. Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Beach, W. W. B. (Hants.)

Blownaggre, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, A. Montagu
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Caldwell, James
Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
Carlile, William Walter
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.

Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir J. Charles Ready
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Curzon, Viscount
Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Donkin, Richard Sim
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, William Theodore
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Dunn, Sir William

Evans, Sir F. H. (South'ton)
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Flower, Ernest
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Fry, Lewis
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Giles, Charles Tyrell
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hn. G.J. (St. George's)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert Wm.
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
 Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
 Hoare, E. Brodie (Hampstead)
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Howard, Joseph
 Hozier, Hon. James H. Cecil
 Jackson, Rt. Hon. W. Lawies
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Kay-Shuttleworth, Rt. Hn. Sir U
 Knowles, Lees
 Lafone, Alfred
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning-(Corn
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)

Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn-(Swans')
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Liverpool)
 Lowe, Francis William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 Macleure, Sir John William
 Manners, Lord Edward W. J.
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Perks, Robert William
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Russell, Gen. F.S. (Cheltenham)
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Sharpe, William Edward T.

Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
 Smith, Jas. Parker (Lanarks.)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J.G. (Oxf'd Uni.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Ure, Alexander
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
 Walton, John L. (Leeds, S.)
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C.E. (Kent)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Jos. Powell- (Birm.)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C.B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Atherley-Jones, L.
 Billson, Alfred
 Birrell, Augustine
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Dillon, John
 Fenwick, Charles
 Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
 Hedderwick, Thos. Chas. H.
 Holland, W. H. (York, W.R.)

Horniman, Frederick John
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
 Langley, Batty
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Crae, George
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Mappin, Sir Fred. Thorpe
 Morgan, W Pritchard (Merthyr)
 Moss, Samuel

O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 Palmer, Sir Chas. M. (Durham)
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Runciman, Walter
 Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
 Steadman, William Charles
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Tennant, Harold John
 Williams, John Carvell (Notte)
 Wilson, H. J. (York, W.R.)
 Yoxall, James Henry
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Labouchere and Mr.
 Herbert Lewis.

MR. BUCHANAN: I propose to leave out the various loans in the schedule with reference to Jamaica. This is one of the largest items, and includes sums for public works, aid to revenue, the completion and equipment of the railway, interest on railway debentures and water works. Whenever it has been desired to advance money to certain of the West Indian Colonies after hurricanes and other exceptional circumstances, it has been done by a Vote on the Estimates, and full particulars have been laid before us. I believe this is the first occasion on which we have been asked to lend an individual colony money in aid of its annual revenue. With

reference to the amount for public works, this loan has already been expended, and therefore it will come to a certain degree within the emergency category mentioned by the right hon. Gentleman. The right hon. Gentleman explained in an earlier part of the Debate that the Colonial Office considered itself under an obligation to relieve the colony from the speculative company which contracted for the construction of its railway; but if a colony with its eyes open enters into an arrangement of that sort, it ought to bear the consequences, and the Treasury ought not to be asked at the last moment to step in and indemnify it. Then there is an

advance for rolling stock, which appears a very curious purpose to which to devote a portion of this loan. We had laid before us on Monday night Sir David Barbour's Report on the financial condition of Jamaica. It is a very interesting document and shows, what we have been endeavouring to urge, that Jamaica, like many of the other colonies, has had its ups and down. Sir David Barbour points out that, although its financial condition at the present moment is very bad, still it had in the past a great many ups as well as a great many downs. I have an Amendment down to the effect that we should only advance these sums if the Colonial Office obtained control of the finances of the colony. This is one of the essential recommendations of Sir David Barbour's Report, and the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary has not yet told us whether he intends to adopt it. For my part, I should certainly be prepared to urge that the necessity of the Colonial Office getting greater control over the Colonies than it at present possesses is a very essential objection to this Bill, because I believe the proper Colonial policy to be to encourage as much as possible Colonial independence—even in the Crown Colonies—with a view to making them capable of managing their own financial and domestic affairs. Can the right hon. Gentleman tell us what further security he hopes to be able to offer for this advance to Jamaica, which constitutes one of the most objectionable features of this Bill?

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 9, to leave out the words from the word 'Jamaica,' to '£40,000,' in line 13, both inclusive."—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the schedule."

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The hon. Member for East Aberdeenshire seems to think that a change in the Constitution of Jamaica is necessary in order to give the Colonial Office control over the expenditure of the money raised on the guarantee afforded by the Bill. This is not the case. The Colonial Office has the right to appoint a majority of the members of the Council, and I would not hesitate to exercise that power if necessary.

MR. BUCHANAN: Was that not attempted last year and dropped?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: In connection with the Tariff Bill I did appoint some official Members. The elective Members took objection to that course, but they finally agreed to pass the Tariff Bill, so my object was attained, and there was no reason for continuing the appointments. I should, however, re-appoint them at once if I deemed it necessary. I must say that I differ entirely from the view of the hon. Member that what he calls constitutional rights should be extended to the West Indies. I think, on the contrary, that we have already gone too far in that direction. As is shown by the very small number of persons who take part in the elections, it is evident that the people who constitute the electorate do not care for the privilege, and the consequence is that these so-called liberal constitutions are really nothing more nor less than oligarchies. Under all these circumstances, I am convinced that a Crown Government which pays attention to such public opinion as exists in the colony is the best form of government possible.

MR. LABOUCHERE: I congratulate the right hon. Gentleman on his views with regard to constitutional government. We complain here of the House of Lords, but in Jamaica, under the auspices of the right hon. Gentleman, the people are infinitely worse off, as if they do not act as he directs, he says he will introduce into their Assembly four or five nominated members in order to create a majority. I only hope this action will be confined to Jamaica, and that the right hon. Gentleman will not seek to introduce it into this country. We are carrying out his wishes now by taking all these grants to Jamaica in a lump sum, instead of dividing on each of the five items. But let us see what is the position of this remarkable Colony. It already owes £1,740,000; its finances show a perpetual deficit, and yet we are asked to advance it more money! And for what? In the first place we are invited to guarantee the interest on a loan for sewerage and street re-construction in Kingston. What would be said if the London County Council came and asked us to guarantee a loan for such works in London?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Many towns in England, including, I think, the borough of Northampton, have obtained loans for a similar purpose.

MR. LABOUCHERE: Yes, and that is exactly my point. I do not object to spending the money in this country; what I do object to is to guarantee the interest on a loan to such a colony as Jamaica, with its stupid and ridiculous financial system. I would not lend money to that colony at 10 per cent. The next item is a grant in aid of the revenue. The right hon. Gentleman seems to be under the impression that Sir David Barbour takes a favourable view of the future finances of Jamaica, and that he thinks an equilibrium will be established in a short time. But it seems to me that Sir David is the reverse of sanguine on that point, and he suggests that we should come to the aid of the colony. There seems to be every prospect that if we guarantee this loan we shall have to pay it ourselves. Then I come to the item for railroads. The thing is perfectly monstrous. Jamaica entered into an arrangement with some speculative Americans by which the latter were to keep the railway if it succeeded, but by which Jamaica was to become responsible, if the railway failed, to pay $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on a million and a half of capital. As Sir David Barbour points out, this adds largely to the obligations of the country without in any way benefiting it. This railroad has not been able to pay its way or even to pay the interest on its debentures. Sir David Barbour does not suggest that it will pay, and as I understand it the arrangement is that we are to advance this money to a railway with this first charge of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. which it cannot pay. Under those circumstances the Colonial Secretary threw up the sponge as far as the contention that this was a business matter was concerned, and he now appeals to us *in formâ pauperis* for Jamaica. I entirely disagree with the Colonial Secretary that we are bound to come to the rescue of these reckless colonies who make bargains with American companies, and get into financial difficulties through their own bad management and speculation. I think the best thing would be to hang one of them up as an example to the others, and if Jamaica were allowed to incur the odium of

bankruptcy it would be an object lesson to the other colonies. If you lay down the principle that whether these colonies do well or ill we will pay their debts, you will have them perpetually outrunning the constable and making faults and errors of finance.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR: The right hon. Gentleman has made a very important statement. He has taken an opportunity of indicating his policy with regard to these Crown colonies—that is, direct control on the part of the Colonial Office. Of course the provision of funds will, rightly or wrongly, put it in the power of the right hon. Gentleman and his successors in office to exercise a more direct and potent influence over the Governments of these colonies. The circumstances in Jamaica are different in nearly every respect from the circumstances in other colonies. It is not a case of a Governor and a nominated council, but of a legislative assembly and local institutions throughout the colony; and it seems to me to be a very important matter for consideration as to what the future of Jamaica is to be. We have had no opportunity of discussing the West Indies on the Estimates this year, and I do not know if the right hon. Gentleman can on this occasion give us any further indication of what he proposes to do regarding the report of Sir David Barbour.

MR. PERKS: I desire to sever myself from the financial policy with regard to our colonies which has been laid down by the hon. Member for Northampton. He said that it would be better to have a colony end in disaster in order that it should serve as an object lesson to other British colonies. Is that a policy likely to commend itself to the commercial common-sense of this country? I venture to say a more fatal policy could hardly be conceived. It endangers the whole position which this country holds by the enterprise of its merchants and traders in various parts of the world. We must not hesitate to lend the credit of this country—especially when we get good sound security—to those of our British colonies which may be emerging, not perhaps always from depression, but from the consequences of unsuccessful commercial adventures. I observe that the hon. Gentleman referred to the loan for Kings-

ton, but he omitted to state that the rates from the town of Kingston are sufficient to cover the charge of this loan. We are told that these loans ought not to be granted, but the same system is applied to many large municipalities in this country, some of which have been notoriously on the verge of financial difficulties, and surely there can be no reasonable objection to extending the same indulgence to an old British colony. What would be the effect of driving these colonies into bankruptcy? They would have to go to the lending agencies of the world—some British, some French, some German, and some, possibly, American, and raise loans at exorbitant rates of interest. That policy would redound against this country, because how are the colonies going to raise the revenue to pay for these loans? Partly by local taxation and partly by increased import duties. Who would have to bear the burden of the latter? The manufacturers of Manchester, Sheffield, and other large towns, who are already complaining of the heavy import duties in some of these Crown colonies. But the colonies could turn round on us and say, "We have had to raise heavy loans at big rates of interest, as you refused to lend us your credit, and therefore we require these heavy import duties. I have

not a penny invested in Jamaica, and none of my friends have, as far as I am aware. The colony no doubt made a huge blunder in connection with the railway. An enormous sum was expended on it. I observe, however, that the gross revenue amounts in some years to £90,000 or £100,000 a year, but the extraordinary part of it is that four-fifths of this revenue is absorbed in working expenses, showing bad management somewhere. If this loan is granted, and if the Colonial Secretary exercises commercial control, as we know he will, and if he sees that effective conditions are imposed to secure the working of the railway on reasonable rates, it does not seem to me to be taken for granted that the security is of such a character as has been represented. I rose mainly for the purpose of absolutely disassociating myself from the policy laid down by the hon. Member for Northampton, viz., that this great, ancient colony should be allowed to drift into bankruptcy and hopeless financial confusion, just to hold it up as an object-lesson to British colonies in every part of the world.

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 158 ;
Noes, 38. (Division List No. 334.)

AYES.

Aird, John
Allsopp, Hon. George
Arnold, Alfred
Arrol, Sir William
Asher, Alexander
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline Fitz Roy
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. Blair (Clackm.)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bhavnaggee, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Augustine
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Boulnois, Edmund
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, A. Montagu
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Caldwell, James
Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carlile, William Walter

Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worcester)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Curzon, Viscount
Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, William Theodore
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Dunn, Sir William
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fenwick, Charles
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fry, Lewis

Gedge, Sydney
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gilliat, John Saunders
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbert John
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. George's)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hazel, Walter
Heaton, John Henniker
Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
Hoare, E. Brodie (Hamstead)
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, Joseph
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Knowles, Lees
Langley, Batty
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Llewellyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swansea)
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverpool)

Lowe, Francis William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 Maclure, Sir John William
 M'Crae, George
 Maden, John Henry
 Manners, Lord Edward W. J.
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 Mo'e, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, W Pritchard (Merthyr)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Parkes, Ebenezer

Perks, Robert William
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Ridley, Rt Hon Sir Matthew W.
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Runciman, Walter
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
 Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Spencer, Ernest
 Spicer, Albert
 Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley

Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt Hon J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollenmache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
 Walton, Jn. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, John Carvell (Notte)
 Williams, J. Powell. (Birm.)
 Wilson-Todd, W. H. Yorks.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Atherley-Jones, L.
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Cameron, Sir Chas. (Glasgow)
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Crilly, Daniel
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Evans, Sir Francis H. (South'ton)
 Fox, Dr. Joseph Francis
 Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)

Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Mappin, Sir Fred. Thorpe
 Molloy, Bernard Charles
 Moss, Samuel
 Moulton, John Fletcher

Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Palmer, Sir Chas. M. (Durham)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
 Steadman, William Charles
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Tennant, Harrold John
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Buchanan and Mr.
 Labouchere.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR: I wish to ask whether the House would agree to the proposal that we now take a Division against the remainder of the Schedule, instead of dividing against each separate item of it. We have now done our best, and the discussion cannot be prolonged with benefit.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): I am glad my hon. friend has made this proposal, which, I think, has not come at all too soon. My hon. friends have, in the exercise not only of their rights but of their intelligent judgment, exhibited a very great interest in the subject, and a great deal of knowledge upon it—much of it recently acquired, thanks to the assistance of the right. hon. Gentleman opposite. But so far as I have observed—I had not the advantage of being present during the whole of the Debate, which enables me to speak with all impartiality, for if I had been here my mind might have been warped—but I think enough has now been said and done, I will not say for

glory, but to vindicate the right of the House of Commons to discuss such important details as are contained in this Bill and Schedule. I said yesterday, in regard to the question of the hurried manner in which the Bill has been introduced, and the lack of information, that that ground of complaint was removed by the action of the Secretary of State for the Colonies; but, of course, there still is the right and duty of examining closely all these particular loans. Now, I appeal to anyone who has heard even as much as I have, if there is not a great deal to be said on the subject of these loans—I do not mean of an obstructive character, because I do not believe there has been any obstruction or waste of time, but in the way of serious and deliberate discussion of these very important matters. Having, however, gone so far, and having found the sense of the House so uniformly expressed in favour of these items in the Schedule, I think the proposal of my hon. friend is a wise one, that we should regard the rest of the Schedule as having one head, and make one final effort to have that head cut off.

I think that even the stern sense of public duty which always animates the hon. Member for Northampton will discern some reason for what I am saying. I daresay he is conning the Bill, and looking with a longing eye on items still to come on; but I think he will consult, not only the convenience of the House, but the general opinion of the House, if he will forego the pleasures of further detailed criticism, and confine himself to the one opportunity which my hon. friend offers him.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I recognise the friendly character of the interposition of the right hon. Gentleman, and I hope it will commend itself to other Gentlemen in the House. I have had the advantage, which the right hon. Gentleman has not enjoyed, of being present during the whole of this Debate, and I desire to bear my testimony to the assiduity with which some of the followers of the right hon. Gentleman have carried out his suggestion that they should examine carefully all the details of the Bill. I am quite sure their loyalty to the right hon. Gentleman has been shown by the extremely emphatic nature of the protest they have thought it their duty to make. I agree with the right hon. Gentleman that a great deal is to be said on this subject, and that a great deal has been said, but I feel sure now that hon. Members will be satisfied, and may feel that they can go home having done their duty and shown their great objection to the principle as well as to the details of the Bill. I believe they will agree with the right hon. Gentleman opposite that

nothing can be gained by any further detailed criticism, which must necessarily follow the lines of what has already taken place.

MR. LABOUCHERE: I feel we can go home with a good conscience. We have done our duty. There are several items yet, and, as the Leader of the Opposition said, we ought, by rights, to discuss every one of those items. But, when he made those suggestions, the Leader of the Opposition ought to be here to help us. The right hon. Gentleman has been kept away, leaving the hard work to us. I gather from the Leader of the Opposition that his conscience will allow him to go away, and that he does not wish himself to discuss these items. For my own part, I am against every one of the items, but, so far from being an obstructive, I should be very happy to vote against the whole of the items *en bloc*. In conclusion, I will only say that a more monstrous, a more wicked, and more scandalous Bill was never brought into the House. In local matters we ought to run ourselves, and the colonies ought to run themselves.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 3, line 14, to leave out the words from the word ‘Lagos,’ inclusive, to the end of the Schedule.”—(*Mr. Labouchere.*)

Question put, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Schedule.”

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 151; Noes, 38. (Division List, No. 335.)

AYES.

Aird, John
Allsopp, Hon. George
Arnold, Alfred
Arrol, Sir William
Asher, Alexander
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. J. Fitzroy
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. B. (Clackm.)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bigwood, James
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Augustine
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-

Boulnois, Edmund
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, A. Montagu
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Caldwell, James
Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carlile, William Walter
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
Curzon, Viscount

Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, William Theodore
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Dunn, Sir William
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fry, Lewis
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Giles, Charles Tyrrell

Gilliat, John Saunders
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St Geo's.)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Halsey, Thomas Frederick
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. Wm.
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. C. Seale-
 Hazell, Walter
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
 Hoare, E. Brodie (Hampstead)
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Howard, Joseph
 Hozier, Hon. James Hy. Cecil
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Knowles, Lees
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn- (Swan.)
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (L'pool.)
 Lowe, Francis William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming

MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 Maclure, Sir John William
 M'Crae, George
 Manners, Lord Edw. Wm. J.
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, William Robert Pacy
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, W Pritchard (Merthyr)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Perks, Robert William
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Sidebottom, W. (Derbyshire)

Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
 Smith, James Parker (Lanarks)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Spencer, Ernest
 Spicer, Albert
 Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lanes.)
 Strauss, Arthur
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Ox. Univ.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollenmache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H.
 Walton, J. L. (Leeds, S.)
 Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Jos. Powell- (Birm.)
 Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Atherley-Jones, L.
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Cameron, Sir C. (Glasgow)
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Evans, Sir F. H. (S'thampton)

Fenwick, Charles
 Fox, Dr. Joseph Francis
 Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
 Hedderwick, Thomas Chas. H.
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
 Molloy, Bernard Charles
 Moss, Samuel

Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
 O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
 Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Steadman, William Charles
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Tennant, Harold John
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Labouchere and Captain
 Sinclair.

Schedule agreed to.

Bill reported, without Amendment;
 read the third time, and passed.

POOR LAW ACTS AMENDMENT BILL
[Lords.]

As amended, considered; an Amend-
 ment made; Bill read the third time,
 and passed, with Amendments.

COMMONS AND OPEN SPACES BILL
[Lords.]

As amended, considered; Bill read
 the third time, and passed, with
 Amendments.

EXPIRING LAWS CONTINUANCE BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Schedule:—

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I rise for
 the purpose of moving as an Amendment
 the omission of the lines which re-enact the
 Peace Preservation (Ireland) Act. Year
 after year we have protested against this
 Act, which, be it observed, has practically
 been in force in Ireland throughout the
 whole of the century. I could quite
 understand the Government passing such
 an Act when the country was supposed to
 be on the verge of an insurrection, or
 immediately after an insurrection had
 taken place. But nothing of the sort has
 occurred in Ireland for a period of twenty
 years. Therefore, on that ground, there
 is no shadow of excuse for keeping this
 disgraceful Act on the Statute-book. But
 it was argued by the Government when
 the Act was last passed that it was neces-

sary in order to remove outrages and disturbances in the country. What are the real facts of the case? This Act has been enforced with the greatest possible strictness, and with the greatest inconvenience to farmers throughout the country, who are not allowed to have guns or firearms on their premises for the ordinary work for which farmers require such weapons. What has been the effect of the Act? When secret societies were active in Ireland the moon-lighters always had these weapons, but the unfortunate farmers whose houses were attacked were disarmed by this law and left in a defenceless position. The Act is, therefore, simply an insult and outrage to peaceably-disposed people. I have never had a licence to carry arms myself because I could never bring myself to ask the Chief Secretary for a licence, and if I had ever asked for one I do not know whether the Chief Secretary would have given it. Accordingly, when I cross the Channel to Ireland, I have no right to carry arms, and I am subject to six months' imprisonment as a common criminal if arms are discovered in my house. I have recently had some means myself of testing the reality of this grievance. A farmer, who was extremely anxious to keep a gun for the purpose of shooting birds, made several applications to get a licence. He finally succeeded in getting a licence, and then, on the information of some loafer about the neighbourhood, his licence was taken from him. He applied to me to get it for him some time ago, and that was the only occasion on which I have ever written to the Castle for a licence. The application, however, was refused. I say it is an outrage to keep this Act on the Statute-book, when we remember that to-day there is not in the world a more peaceable country than Ireland or one more free from crime. The present occasion is peculiarly favourable for protesting against this law. We have heard a good deal lately about oppressed "helots" in Johannesburg. One of their great grievances, as dwelt upon by the Colonial Secretary the other day, is that they are an unarmed people with an armed police. That is exactly our position in Ireland. We are unarmed, while the police are armed, not only with revolvers, but with rifles and bayonets, which they do not hesitate to use. Now, what moral right has this country to go to President Kruger and make a grievance of the fact

that British-born subjects in the Transvaal are denied the right to carry arms, when at the same time in Ireland—a perfectly peaceable country—any man who carries a gun is subject to six months' imprisonment? It is a mockery to adopt such an attitude as that, and if you desire with any show of consistency to catalogue this as one of the grievances of the Uitlanders in the Transvaal, you are bound to accept my Amendment, and remove this scandalous enactment from the Statute-book. President Kruger and the Transvaal Government have an infinitely stronger ground to disarm the Uitlanders than you have to disarm the Irish, because the Uitlanders have, within the last three years, made an armed effort to overthrow the Government. If we had had an armed insurrection in Ireland within the last three years I should not have been surprised at the House of Commons being asked to continue this enactment. But that has not been the case. Ireland has been in a condition of profound peace, but instead of availing yourselves of the opportunity of withdrawing from that country the coercive laws which have so long prevailed, you persist in keeping on the Statute-book an abominable law like the Peace Preservation Act. It is monstrous that this most insulting and coercive measure should be placed in an Expiring Laws Continuance Bill with a number of ordinary non-contentious measures.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, to leave out lines 29 and 30."—
(*Mr. Dillon.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Schedule."

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (*Mr. G. W. BALFOUR*, Leeds, Central): The hon. Member for East Mayo described this Act as an Act that forbids the carrying of arms. It is, however, only an Act to forbid the carrying of arms without a licence in such parts of Ireland as may be proclaimed. It is not in the least necessary to apply to the Chief Secretary in order to obtain a licence. If the hon. Member wrote an application to a resident magistrate it would probably be granted. The hon. Member said that year after year he and his friends have protested against the continuance of this Act on the Statute-

book. I think he must have forgotten that for the three years during which the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Montrose held the office I now hold no protest whatever was heard from the hon. Member. When the hon. Member says that nothing could be more insulting than to put this Act into an Expiring Laws Continuance Bill, the hon. Member forgets that it was the right hon. Member for Montrose who first introduced the practice.

MR. DILLON: Yes, but then we had the possibility of a Home Rule Parliament.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: That might have been the case in 1893, but in the two subsequent years after the Home Rule Bill had been rejected by the House of Lords, and when it was perfectly obvious that there was no prospect of another Home Rule Bill being introduced, the hon. Member still made no protest against the inclusion of the Act in the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill. The fact of the matter is that although the hon. Member uses strong language about the Act, he knows well enough that it causes no practical inconvenience whatever. The Act was introduced by a Liberal Ministry, and was put into the Expiring Laws Continuance Act for the first time by a Liberal Ministry. The hon. Member has given two grounds which he thought might possibly be urged in justification of the maintenance of this measure—the danger of an armed insurrection, which now is at an end, and the prevalence of moonlighting. With regard to the latter he added that this measure would never check moonlighting, and that moonlighters never had the slightest difficulty in getting arms. That is an incorrect statement, as a certain number of moonlighting outrages have been carried out for the express purpose of getting arms, so that the Act must have done something to make it more difficult. We

have also to consider that in Ireland at certain times of the year there is serious danger of disturbance and conflict between crowds and rival processions. That is one of the most important considerations, and I do not think any Irish Government would willingly deprive itself of the power of keeping some check over the possession of arms in that part of Ireland where conflicts between large crowds occur year after year. This question has been discussed every session since the present Government came into office, and I do not think any additional arguments have been urged in favour of omitting this Act from the Bill. I therefore propose to follow the example of my predecessor, and insist upon maintaining the Act on the Statute Book.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.): It is no answer to say that the thing was done by your predecessor; if it is wrong it ought not to be persisted in. As to the Act being necessary to make party processions—I suppose in the north of Ireland—less dangerous than they otherwise would be, it is a very curious thing that that is just the part of the country where arms are not kept out of the hands of the people. There are more arms in the hands of the people of Belfast than in all the rest of Ireland. The Chief Secretary says it is no indignity or insult to keep this Act on the Statute Book, because all you have to do is to apply to a resident magistrate for a licence to have a gun. But what would an Englishman think if he had to apply to a stipendiary magistrate to get leave to carry arms? It would be considered a condition of slavery, and it is the duty of all Irish Members to protest against this measure upon every occasion.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 118; Noes, 42.—(Division List No. 336).

AYES.

Aird, John
Allsopp, Hon. George
Arnold, Alfred
Arrol, Sir William
Asher, Alexander
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. J. FitzRoy
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)

Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. B. (Clackmannanshire)
Banbury, Frederic George
Barnes, Frederick Gorell
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boulnois, Edmund
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John

Brookfield, A. Montagu
Butcher, John George
Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
Carlisle, William Walter
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birmingham)
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worcester)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.

Mr. G. W. Balfour.

Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Cook, Fred Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chath'm
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Fry, Lewis
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. John
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (S.G'rge's
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury
 Halsey, Thomas Frederick
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. R. Wm.
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-

Hazell, Walter
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Hill, Arthur (Down, West)
 Hoare, Edward B. (Hampstead)
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Howard, Joseph
 Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Knowles, Lees
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swan.)
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverpool)
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 Maclure, Sir John William
 M'Ewan, William
 Manners, Lord Edw. Wm. J.
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Monk, Charles James
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Dept'f'd.)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Newdigate, Francis Alex.
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pierpoint, Robert

Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edwd.
 Purvis, Robert
 Rentoul, James Alexander
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sidebottom, William (Derbys.
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Strauss, Arthur
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, W. E. Murray
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H.
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Colonel, R. (Dorset)
 Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir
 William Walrond and Mr.
 Anstruther.

NOES.

Atherley-Jones, L.
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Billson, Alfred
 Birrell, Augustine
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Caldwell, James
 Carew, James Laurence
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Fenwick, Charles

Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Harwood, George
 Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Madden, John Henry
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand

Molloy, Bernard Charles
 O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
 Perks, Robert William
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Steadman, William Charles
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Yoxall, James Henry
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Dillon and Mr.
 Clancy.

Schedule agreed to.

Bill reported, without Amendment;
 read the third time, and passed.

SUPPLY [28TH JULY] REPORT.

Order read for resuming Adjourned
 Debate on Question [31st July], "That
 this House doth agree with the Com-
 mittee in the Eighth Resolution, 'That a
 sum, not exceeding £14,400, be granted
 to Her Majesty, to complete the sum
 necessary to defray the Charge which
 will come in course of payment during the
 year ending on the 31st day of March,
 1900, for the salaries and expenses of the
 office of Her Majesty's Woods, Forests, and
 Land Revenues, and of the office of Land
 Revenue Records and Inrolments.'"

Question again proposed.

Debate resumed.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucester-
 Forest of Dean) asked whether it was the
 intention of the Woods and Forests
 Department to purchase property called
 Abbot's Wood, in the centre of Dean
 Forest.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO
 THE TREASURY (MR. HANBURY, Pres-
 ton): The proposed purchase of Abbot's
 Wood has not been abandoned; there
 has been some delay in consequence of
 certain legal difficulties.

MR. LEWIS: I have given private
 notice of my intention to raise the
 question of the desirability of reforest-
 ing the waste lands of the country, or
 at all events, those which are under the
 jurisdiction of the Crown. The Woods
 and Forests Department have rights
 extending over 364,000 acres of land in
 Wales, some of which is exceedingly

suitable for reafforesting. Hitherto the Government, when asked to carry out that process, have said that these tracts of land are subject to certain common rights which cannot be extinguished without legislation. I admit the difficulty in that direction, but I would suggest the purchase of those common rights, which could be obtained for a very small sum. In fact, it would be a great advantage to many of the commoners on the Welsh lands to have suitable plantation of trees made. Private landowners have carried on the operation with great advantage to themselves. Why should not the Crown show a good example in this respect, and at the same time make a satisfactory investment of public money? There are 26,000,000 acres of waste land in this country. If only 6,000,000 acres were planted, we should be able to dispense with all the timber we import from abroad, so it is evident that money expended on this purpose would yield a satisfactory return.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) drew attention to the practical shutting up of Lord Antrim's quarries, which employed 4,000 men, through the action of the Woods and Forests Department, and also to the proceedings in which Colonel Vandeleur was concerned at Kilrush.

MR. HANBURY: I may explain that the Commissioners of Woods and Forests agree to a large extent with the hon. Member as to reafforesting some of the mountains in Wales. Practically over the whole of the unenclosed Crown lands in Wales there are common rights existing, and it is not possible to enclose any portion without disturbing those rights, while the difficulty of getting every individual commoner to agree is almost insuperable. Unless there is absolute unanimity these lands cannot be enclosed; one commoner by holding out can prevent it. But the Commissioners are fully alive to the importance of doing all they can in the matter of afforestation, and quite recently they purchased a farm of 400 acres, one-third of which is to be planted. They have also purchased and enclosed other freehold properties. I am sorry the cases mentioned by the hon. Member for Louth have not been under my notice, but if he will give me further information I will look into them.

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolution agreed to.

SUPPLY [31st JULY].

Resolutions reported.

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES, 1899-1900.

CLASS I.

1. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £65,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1900, in respect of sundry Public Buildings in Great Britain, not provided for on other Votes."

CLASS III.

2. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £500, be Granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1900, for certain Miscellaneous Legal Expenses, including Grants in Aid."

CLASS V.

3. "That a sum, not exceeding £367,801 (including a Supplementary sum of £75,000), be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1900, for sundry Colonial Services, including certain Grants in Aid."

CLASS VII.

4. "That a sum, not exceeding £23,175 (including a Supplementary sum of £9,175), be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1900, for the salaries and other expenses of Temporary Commissions, Committees, and Special Inquiries, including a grant in aid of the expenditure of the Congested Districts Board (Ireland)."

Resolutions agreed to.

LINCOLNSHIRE CORONERS BILL

[Lords].

As amended, considered; read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

LAND CHARGES BILL [Lords].

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged; Bill withdrawn.

In pursuance of the Order of the House of the 17th day of July last, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

House adjourned accordingly at ten minutes before Seven of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 3rd August 1899.

SAT FIRST.

The EARL OF WINCHILSEA AND NOTTINGHAM sat first in Parliament after the death of his brother.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

HASTINGS HARBOUR BILL (H.L.).

OYSTERMOUTH RAILWAY OR TRAM-ROAD BILL (H.L.).

Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE TRAMWAYS AND IMPROVEMENT BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

LONDON IMPROVEMENTS BILL.

HARROW AND UXBRIDGE RAILWAY BILL.

UXBRIDGE AND RICKMANSWORTH RAILWAY BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bills passed, and returned to the Commons.

DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL.

Commons Amendments and reasons for disagreeing to several of the Lords Amendments considered (according to Order).

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: My Lords, I beg to move that this House do not insist upon the first Amendment of the Commons, striking out the extension of the city limits so as to include the townships of Rathmines and Rathgar, Pembroke, Drumcondra, Clonliffe and Glasnevin and Clontarf. I am afraid it will be considered that I have a somewhat uphill task to induce your Lordships' House, at this time of the session, and as at present composed, to go back on a decision of a Committee of this House; but I enter on the task with a light heart, having com-

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plete confidence in the strength of the case I have to put before your Lordships, and being certain that I shall gain my case, even though it be that somewhat tasteless fruit—a moral victory. It is true that I am asking you to overthrow a decision of a Committee of your Lordships' House, presided over by a Peer of such great knowledge and influence as the Duke of Northumberland. I know that both Houses of Parliament are exceedingly loth to set aside decisions of Committees, and rightly so, but, at the same time, an occasion does occur sometimes when the decisions arrived at by Committees are set aside by the later decisions of this or the other House of Parliament. I will call your Lordships' attention to a case which occurred this session—the case of a Committee presided over by my noble friend Lord Ribblesdale. That Committee inserted in the London Water Companies Bill a Sinking Fund Clause, which had in its favour the whole weight of recent Parliamentary precedent, but which, nevertheless, in the exercise of your judgment, your Lordships decided to throw out. There was a great difference between the position in the case of that Committee and the present position, for in throwing over the decision of Lord Ribblesdale's Committee your Lordships had the support of the action of the House of Commons, who, both in Committee and in the full House, declined to insert a Sinking Fund Clause in that Bill. Moreover, you also had the support of the deliberate judgment of the Executive Government of the day, who expressed the opinion that the Sinking Fund Clause should not be inserted in that Bill. The conditions of the present case are different. You are now flying in the face of the repeated decisions of the House of Commons. When this Bill went before that House, in the first instance, there was no opposition raised to it, not even on the Second Reading, at which stage any opposition, if it existed, would have been raised. The Bill went to a Committee of that House, where it was carefully examined, and it passed through the ordeal of an examination which extended over seventeen days. When it went back to the House of Commons the exceptional course was taken of opposing it on the Third Reading, and, in a large House of 424 Members, there was a majority of 160 in favour of the Bill, the numbers being 291

for, and 129 against. The Bill then came to this House, and was not opposed on the Second Reading. It went to a Committee, and the most important part of the Bill was excised in that Committee. The Bill went back in that form to the House of Commons, and the House of Commons, by an enormous majority, affirmed its original decision, and decided that the proposals of the Bill, as presented to your Lordships in the first instance, were desirable and expedient. In the second Division, which took place on Tuesday last, there was, in a House of 216, a majority of 108, the figures in the Division Lobbies being 160 for, and 52 against. As I have already said, your action had the support in the case of Lord Ribblesdale's Committee of the Government of the day. On this occasion, the Government of the day remained neutral. It seems to me that their neutrality, as displayed in the House of Commons, was a very favourable and a very friendly one, for when I examine the Division List in the other House, I find that there voted in the majority 15 members of the Government, including two Cabinet Ministers, whilst in the minority there voted one Irish Anti-Nationalist Member, and four of the Whips. That is the extent to which the Government was represented against this Bill in the House of Commons on Tuesday last. So much for the recent Parliamentary history of the Bill. Let me now come to the proposals of the Bill itself. In the year 1840 the boundaries of the City of Dublin were settled. Since that day there has been no extension of those boundaries; but, curiously enough, by the settlement of 1840 two of these townships which it is now desired to include within the city boundaries were cut out of it. I refer to the townships of Pembroke and Clontarf. So matters went on till the year 1879, when a Boundary Commission was appointed, which went closely and carefully into the whole circumstances of the boundaries of the City of Dublin, and the possibility of adding to the extent of the city's domains. That Commission reported, and this Bill follows exactly the lines of the Report of that Commission; it is upon that Report that its provisions are founded. The City of Dublin is a very densely-populated district. It has but a small area—3,800 acres—and its population is as high as 64 per acre. This congestion of the City of

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Dublin has served to encourage the migration from within the city boundaries of the richer and more well-to-do inhabitants, who have gone into the suburbs. Around the City of Dublin have grown up a series of townships in which the professional and better-to-do inhabitants of Dublin dwell, but they are essentially wrapped up in the interests of the City of Dublin. The inhabitants of those townships make their money from operations within the boundary of the city, and what this Bill desires is to bring the townships within the general government of the city, and to make the city and the townships one municipality, enjoying the benefit of one form of municipal government. That is very desirable, if on sanitary grounds alone. I cannot refrain from quoting a summary of some of the evidence which was given on that point before the Committee in the other House by men of the highest authority—such as Sir Francis McCabe and Mr. T. W. Russell. Sir Francis McCabe was from 1878 to 1888 the Inspector of the Dublin District under the Local Government Board of Ireland. From 1888 to 1898 he was the Medical Commissioner of the Local Government Board of Ireland. The summary of his evidence may be given thus: He said the sanitary staff of Dublin is one of the most efficient in the United Kingdom, that the maintenance of separate sanitary staffs for the five separate townships was both extravagant and inefficient, that three out of the five townships had not even adopted the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act; and, lastly, he said he had no hesitation in affirming that it was impossible for the sanitary condition, and, therefore, for the health of Greater Dublin, to be made what it ought to be unless the whole district was merged into one, and placed under the supervision of the medical officer of health for Dublin, so as to secure one uniform system of sanitary supervision for the whole district. These words, coming from such an authority, ought to have great weight with your Lordships. Mr. T. W. Russell, a member of the present Government and a gentleman whose political opinions do not agree with my own, has given very important evidence on this point. Mr. Russell is now Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board, and has especially to take charge of matters of health and of local government. His

reasons for an extension of the boundary were, first, that the interests of the city and townships are common interests ; secondly, that the present condition under which the rich go out of the city and leave the poor to bear the burdens is essentially unjust to the city ; thirdly, that the rate of mortality in the city is excessive ; fourthly, that the disposal of the sewage is a scandal ; and, fifthly, that the maintenance of several sanitary staffs leads to inefficient and extravagant expenditure. In contiguous districts, which practically form separate towns, it is desirable that you should have your work done in as simple and as efficient a manner as possible, and that you should give the various officers enough work to occupy their time, so that they may really earn the money they cost the ratepayers. That does not apply merely to sanitary matters. There are many subjects which can only be effectually dealt with in the case of towns and cities adjoining one another by a single service. Take such questions as the water supply, the fire brigade, and many other local duties that have to be performed by municipalities for the benefit of the community. It is desirable to cover as much ground as possible by these services. Then there is a further point, and it is this—that, owing to these richer townships growing up round the City of Dublin, the Corporation of the City have found very great difficulty in getting land in these townships to relieve the congested districts. The land in the townships has been taken by speculative builders, who have laid themselves out to build for the richer and middle-classes, and one of whose objects is to exclude houses for the poorer classes. This is the state of affairs in Dublin, and it was to remedy this state of affairs that the Corporation moved in the direction of this Bill. It is always rather difficult to meet arguments before they are made, but I take it that there are three principal arguments which will be used against this Bill. The first is that the proposals under this Bill are against precedent ; the second is, that they inflict financial harm and grievance on the townships ; and the third is, that they inflict unfair political disabilities on the townships also. I will, endeavour, my Lords, very briefly to deal with these points. As to the matter of precedent, I cannot at all admit that the proposal under this Bill is against pre-

cedent or against custom. You find, throughout England and Scotland, that the great cities have extended their boundaries. It is said, on behalf of the opponents of this Bill, “ That may be true enough, but when they have extended their boundaries they have done so with the consent of the districts to be included, and not against their wish.” That is not my experience, and it is not my reading of the proceedings which have taken place in this and the other House with reference to schemes for the extension of municipalities. I think you will find it almost an invariable fact that the new areas which were to be merged in the older and bigger ones have always protested. They always prefer to be kings in their own little kingdoms, rather than to find themselves swamped in larger and bigger areas. It has been the same thing with regard to Parliamentary areas. I think I can give the noble Duke a case in a district which he knows, and which I know very well. Prior to 1885 the town of Berwick-on-Tweed had two members, and it was a borough of exceptional interest and exceptional position. It was decided that the borough should lose its two members, and be merged into the north division of Northumberland. The voters of Berwick-on-Tweed protested, but it was for the benefit of the district and for the country at large that such an amalgamation should take place, and it was carried out. It is exactly the same thing with regard to the merging of contiguous areas. I think, if your Lordships will study the history of the proceedings in connection with the extension of municipalities either in England or in Scotland you will find that in almost every case the municipality has got its way, and has swallowed up the smaller townships which have been close to it, and dependent upon it. Take, for instance, the case of Glasgow. There you have had successive extensions. One district of Glasgow was for a long time successful in standing out against the Corporation, but it had to give way in the end, and the Glasgow Corporation now covers by far the greater part of the inhabited districts which surround it, to the benefit both of those districts and itself. An argument has been adduced against this Bill from the case of London. Well, I think London may be quoted essentially in favour of this Bill. The

boundaries of the City of London have not been extended, but I maintain that to the fact that the city boundaries have not from time to time been extended so as to include the whole of the metropolis is due to a great many of our difficulties in regard to London government. That became the opinion of Parliament itself: for what did it do? In 1855 it determined to establish the Metropolitan Board of Works, which was to perform certain duties on behalf of London as a whole; and later on the London County Council was formed. It has been recognised that it is necessary that certain duties which are performed for these great crowded areas must be performed by one central authority for the whole area, and that principle has been given effect to again and again. There is the case of the London Government Bill of the present session. In that Bill you included in one area the City of Westminster and a number of great local governing areas. The Strand, St. James's, St. George's, and St. Martin's were included, and every one of these separate local areas protested strongly against their inclusion. They protested that they had a history of their own, that they were carrying on their work of local government in an excellent manner, but Parliament decided that it was desirable they should be included within the new borough of Westminster. This, I think, affords an admirable precedent for the inclusion of these townships in the area of the City of Dublin. Then I come to the question of finance. It is said that it will be hard on these townships to compel them to bear their share of the responsibility of the debt which now lies on the Corporation of the City of Dublin. It seems to me, on the other hand, that the proposals in this matter are extremely fair. The valuation of the City of Dublin at this moment is £720,000. The debt is about £1,600,000. The Corporation of the City of Dublin have an income from other sources than the rates amounting to £80,000. Their population is between 245,000 and 250,000. Take now the case of the townships. Their valuation is £313,000, their debt £450,000, and their population 85,000. If you take the proportion between the population of the townships and the proportion between the debt of the townships, and that of the population and the debt of the City of Dublin, you

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will find that they work out almost exactly the same. There are £450,000 of debt in the one case to £1,600,000 of debt in the other, and 85,000 population in the one case to 250,000 population in the other, and I think the townships will have somewhat the best of it, because by being merged they will get the benefit of the property in the hands of the Corporation, which, as I have already said, amounts to something like £80,000 a year. Therefore I cannot admit that in the matter of the taking over of debt there is any hardship to the townships. On the other hand, they will get the best of the bargain. At this moment the total rate in the City of Dublin is 9s. 4d. in the £, but the municipal rate, which alone can be properly compared with the rate in the townships, is 6s. 4d. in the £. I find that in the townships the rate runs from 3s. 6d. to 4s. 10d. in the £, an average of something like 4s. in the £; but it is a well-known fact, and it is provided for in this Bill, that at this moment the valuation of the City of Dublin is exceedingly low. The Commissioner, Mr. Barton, said that if a revaluation occurred—as it will occur under this Bill—the increase will be 25 per cent., whereas the increase in the valuation of the townships will not amount to more than 10 per cent. Taking the increase in the city as only equal to 20 per cent., and that in the townships to 10 per cent., the average rate would be 5s. 2d. in the city and about 4s. 1d. in the townships, or 1s. 1d. in the £ above that of the townships. I think that it is only fair that there should be a certain increase in the rate to be borne by the townships, because at the present moment they are getting the advantage of several municipal institutions without paying for them. They are getting the advantage of the fire brigade service, they are getting the advantage of technical schools, and they are also getting the advantage of the hospitals, owing to their proximity to the City of Dublin, without paying for them, or, at any rate, without paying their proper share. But so anxious were the promoters of this Bill that there should be no hardship imposed in this matter of rates on the townships that it has been provided in the Bill that there shall be no increase in the rate levied in the townships for ten years from the passing of this Bill. That surely is a sufficient safeguard, and one which should, in conjunction with

what I have already said, relieve your Lordships from any apprehension that in the matter of rating you are going to inflict any injury on the inhabitants of the townships. I come now to the political aspect of the question. That was very frankly stated in the House of Commons by Mr. Carson and Colonel Saunderson. They said :

“ We do not like the Corporation of the City of Dublin because it is Nationalist, while we in the townships are Unionists. We do not like the idea of our affairs being dealt with by this Nationalist body.”

It certainly does seem to me that this is a funny argument to raise in the case of Irish affairs. We all know that the political feeling in Ireland, with the exception of one corner in the north-west, is overwhelmingly Nationalist. This is instanced in the House of Commons by the enormous number of Nationalist Members who are returned, and who will continue to be returned to represent Irish constituencies in that House. You have to deal with the fact that a very large proportion of the inhabitants hold Nationalist views, and I always understood that it was the view of the Party opposite that their only safe course was to disregard that fact, and give the Irish people exactly the same privileges as are given to the inhabitants of England and Scotland, without regard to their political opinions. As I understand, the fear is that the Unionist views of the townships will be swamped in the new corporation as proposed under the Bill. It is proposed in the Bill to add twenty-eight members to the Corporation, to make the number eighty-eight instead of sixty, and under that arrangement Pembroke will have eight members, Rathmines eight members, and Clontarf four members. The promoters of this Bill are most anxious to meet the views of their Unionist neighbours as fully and frankly as possible, and I am prepared to say, on behalf of the promoters, that they are willing to agree to any reasonable increase in the number of representatives that should be sent to the Dublin Corporation from the townships. I propose, and I have the authority of the promoters in so doing, to say that they are willing to increase the number of representatives in the case of Pembroke and Rathmines from eight in each case to twelve, and in the case of

Clontarf from four to eight ; that is to say, to add twelve more to the representatives of the townships. That will bring the total number of the representatives of the townships up to thirty-two, out of a total on the Corporation of 100. If the townships in the newly-added portions of the municipality are to have one-third of the whole number of the representatives on the Council, surely they may feel pretty confident that they will be able to maintain their own views, and secure that justice should be done to the districts they represent. I should have thought it would have proved an attraction to the Unionists of the townships to think that, by so entering into the local government of their metropolis they would be able to have a great influence in leavening the Corporation and bringing it into harmony with their views. I can assure your Lordships that there is no intention on behalf of the promoters of this Bill to tyrannise politically over the districts proposed to be brought within the purview of the Corporation, and I hope your Lordships' Amendment will not be insisted upon. I think I have stated the principal points in support of this Bill. They are capable of considerable extension, and in the interests of good municipal government and of fair and equal treatment to the inhabitants of Ireland I appeal to your Lordships to agree to the Commons Amendment.

Moved, “ That this House do not insist upon the first Amendment, to which the Commons have disagreed.”—(*The Lord Tweedmouth.*)

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND : My Lords, I am afraid it falls to my lot, as I had the honour of being Chairman of the Select Committee which considered this Bill, to reply to the noble Lord opposite. At the outset I feel compelled to say that it is rather an unfortunate circumstance that the duty of moving that the Commons Amendment should be agreed to should have been imposed upon an ex-Cabinet Minister sitting upon the Front Opposition Bench, for it has been the object of the Committee, and of almost everyone who appeared before them, to keep

political considerations out of the question. I should have thought that someone less connected with Party questions could have been found to undertake the duty. Noble Lords must have been struck with the pleasure which the noble Lord derived, at the conclusion of his speech, from dwelling on the political side of the question. He offers increased representation to these townships in order that they may not be politically swamped. If your Lordships will condescend to take my advice, you will not increase the representation of these townships. The proposal to increase the representation of the townships has been considered by the Committee, not upon political grounds, for we were not dealing with a political question, but in the light simply of the population and rateable value of the townships, and we came to the conclusion, on the basis mentioned, that the townships have been generously dealt with, and that an increase in their representation would be unjustifiable. There is another objection to the noble Lord assuming this duty. He has no knowledge of the subject with which he deals, and he has been, if I may be allowed to say so, uncommonly badly coached. He told your Lordships that it was the usual thing to divide in the House of Commons on the Second Reading of a Private Bill. I venture to say that that is a very unusual course, and one which is seldom resorted to. When the noble Lord came to deal with this Bill he made a most amazing statement. He told us that the Bill was drawn upon the lines of the Report of the Boundary Commission of 1879. I can only give him a direct contradiction. I will not weary your Lordships by going into this point, but the Bill differs considerably from the proposals of the Commission. The noble Lord said the interests of these townships were inseparably mixed up with the Council of the City of Dublin; but we came to the conclusion that this was not proved. I am prepared to challenge any noble Lord to show that the interests of these townships are inseparably connected with the City of Dublin. The noble Lord said they benefited by the hospitals. That is true, but they contribute rather more liberally to their support than does the City of Dublin. With regard to the fire brigade service, the City of Dublin can charge what it likes for that service. I

cannot ask your Lordships to follow me through the evidence taken before the House of Commons Committee, which lasted seventeen days, and through the evidence which was taken before your Lordships' Committee, which lasted fourteen days. I would rather put the question generally before you, and there is one point which I should specially urge before I go any further. It is the question of precedent. The noble Lord tried to quote some precedents for the inclusion in the city of authorities on the outskirts. I think, without conceit, I may say that I know something about this question, because we had two of the most eminent Parliamentary counsel who practise before your Lordships' Committees dealing with these precedents for the greater part of a whole day, and I think that on either side they brought up every possible precedent they could. I admit that they did not bring up some of the precedents which the noble Lord has quoted. But the noble Lord is apparently unaware that the proposals of this Bill do not touch the political representation or the Parliamentary representation at all. He actually quoted Berwick-on-Tweed having lost its two Members, as if that had anything whatever to do with this question, or was in any way a precedent of a local authority absorbing another local authority for purely local purposes. The noble Lord also quoted the City of London. I trust, my Lords, that the noble Lord, who is one of the Party who believe in the unification of London, intends to absorb the surrounding authorities of the City of London and make the Lord Mayor the head, not only of the Corporation of the City, but also of the vestries which are shortly to become borough councils. I have never heard that that was the idea they had in view in the unification of London. If London is a parallel case, it proves exactly the reverse of what the noble Lord contended. You have left the City exactly within its own boundaries, and you have erected around it authorities which will be much more on an equality with the City than the present bodies. That action is the reverse to what is proposed in this Bill. I should like to take your Lordships through what I think will be a little more correct history of this Bill. The Bill has been spoken of as if it had come to your Lordships' House in the condition in which it was originally introduced, but that is a

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great mistake. As it was drawn by the Corporation of Dublin it included a large part of the County of Dublin, but the House of Commons Committee could not stand that, and they cut out a considerable portion of the County of Dublin before the Bill reached your Lordships' House. They made other alterations, but they did keep within the Bill these five townships, four of which your Lordships' Committee have struck out. But how was that done? It was done by the casting Vote of the chairman, and your Lordships are, no doubt, aware that there is a great difference between the treatment of a Private Bill in the House of Lords and the treatment which is accorded to it in the House of Commons. The Private Bill Committee in the House of Commons consists of four individuals, and the Chairman has a casting vote. In the House of Lords it consists of five members, and the Chairman has no casting vote. Therefore the net support which up to that time the House of Commons had given to this Bill was that of two of its members. Very foolishly, as I think, a Division was challenged on the Third Reading in the House of Commons, who very properly, in my opinion, refused to throw out the Bill on the Third Reading. I have myself in former days repeatedly voted in favour of the Third Reading of a Private Bill when it has been challenged in the House of Commons, simply on the ground that the House of Commons must support its own Committees, and as a general rule Members will be found to vote against the rejection of a Private Bill on the Third Reading. It was all the more reasonable in this case because the House of Commons was the House in which the Bill was introduced, and those who voted knew perfectly well that the Bill was coming before your Lordships, and would be reconsidered. I think it would have been a monstrous thing that a Bill of this importance, promoted by the Corporation of the metropolis of Ireland, should, after it had passed through Committee, be rejected on the Third Reading in the House of Commons before the opportunity of considering it had been given to your Lordships. Therefore, in so far as the sanction of the House of Commons was given to this Bill, the Bill came to your Lordships' House with the approval of only two members of a Committee. It is not for me to defend the con-

duct of the Committee over which I had the honour to preside. I can only say that I believe it exercised great impartiality and great patience, and I am not aware that any evidence was suppressed, that any undue haste was exercised, or that any material details were left unconsidered, and after sitting for fourteen days we came to the conclusion of which your Lordships are aware. This is not a personal matter. If your Lordships doubt the judgment or capacity of the Committee, if you take exception to anything in the manner in which the inquiry was conducted, if you think evidence which should have been heard was not permitted, or that undue haste was exercised in coming to a decision, then reverse our decision; and if your Lordships feel sufficiently in possession of all the facts, and if you feel that the decision of the Committee was wrong, by all means reverse it. But, my Lords, I submit, in the first place, that if you do so consider, a better time would have been on the Third Reading, before the Bill left your Lordships' House. I think the noble Lord who was so well informed of all the arguments might have raised these objections on the Second Reading; but the question now is, are you going to reverse your verdict at the bidding of two Members of the House of Commons, supported by a Division taken on the 1st of August at the fag end of a long session? I believe such a course is almost, if not quite, without precedent, and I would ask your Lordships to consider whether, in not insisting upon your Amendment, you would not strike a very serious blow at the independence of this House in dealing with Private Bill legislation, and fetter the action of Committees. I hardly know how to proceed, because I feel that your Lordships are entitled to know something of the pros and cons of the case, especially after what has been said by the noble Lord opposite, but at the same time I am quite incapable of boiling down the evidence into any reasonable space. I would ask your Lordships to remember that scarcely any precedent has been brought forward, or can be brought forward for dealing with townships in the way proposed in this Bill. Because these places are called townships it must not be supposed that they are twopenny-halfpenny places; these townships are urban authorities. Rathmines has the sixth

largest population of any urban authority in Ireland, and it is the sixth or seventh largest township in the whole of Ireland. The rateable value of Rathmines is the fourth highest, and that of Pembroke the fifth highest, of any urban authority in Ireland. They are practically corporations, with all the powers of corporations, and with everything that tends to make corporations, with the exception that they have not mayors and aldermen. The inhabitants of these townships are practically unanimous against inclusion. It has not been pretended that they would get any benefit from being included, except the fact that they would have the honour and glory of being part of the Corporation of Dublin—an honour and a glory which they do not appreciate. Many attempts were made to show that these townships had failed in their duties. We had a lot of evidence showing that the roads of Rathmines were worse than the roads of Dublin, and so on; but as to mismanagement none was shown, except in one particular—we were not convinced that the drainage of some of these townships was perfect. The City of Dublin has poured the sewage of 240,000 people down the Liffey for fifty years past, and it was quite impossible for the Committee to judge for how much of the pollution of the Bay of Dublin the townships, and for how much the city was responsible. I entirely repudiate the idea that the townships will benefit in any way by their inclusion. However bad the position of the City of Dublin may be, and Mr. Russell himself said it was in a slough out of which it could not get without the inclusion of the townships, I could show that that slough is not as bad as it at first sight seems. The Corporation had two causes of complaint. One was that they had exhausted their borrowing powers, and that they wished for more. Well, they have got that now. We have, by a clause in another Bill, increased their borrowing power by £600,000, and they also have the power of getting a revaluation of the city. It is valued 25 or 30 per cent. below what it ought to be, and the richer parts are most under-valued, some parts being considered to be as much as 40 per cent. below their valuation. The reason assigned for not revaluing before was that the income-tax was paid on valuation, and that by not revaluing they defrauded the Imperial Exchequer of a great amount of income-tax which they

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would otherwise have had to pay. The other complaint was that they were hemmed in and wanted more room. They have now got more room, for 2,700 acres are added to the City of Dublin; and, as soon as this Bill passes, the city will have the largest area of any town in Ireland. I am sorry to have detained the House so long, but I did not think it would have been respectful to your Lordships not to have given some of the reasons which led us to come to the conclusion at which we arrived. I would urge your Lordships to insist upon your Amendment, chiefly upon the ground that no reason has been shown for upsetting the decision of the Committee which spent so much time in the consideration of this subject. If you do upset that decision, I cannot see how similar decisions are to be upheld in future.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: My Lords, I feel considerable diffidence in rising to address the House on this occasion, for it seems, according to what the noble Duke has said, that if one happens to sit on the Front Opposition Bench one is precluded from having an opinion. I know nothing whatever about the political question which seems to be involved; I approach this question as one which involves purely municipal matters. There is a difference between the two Houses about Amendments, and the only matter that is to be decided is whether we shall now agree with the House of Commons. That is a very different position to that of simply reversing the decision of one of our Committees. I have no doubt whatever that the Committee of this House performed its duty admirably, and that the Committee of the other House also performed its duty extremely well. We are told that the Bill was carried in the Committee of the other House by the casting vote of the Chairman. I have been told, and the noble Duke will correct me if I am wrong, that the Amendments were only carried in your Lordships' Committee by three to two. Am I right?

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: No.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: What were the figures?

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: I think, my Lords, that it is generally understood that it is not a very good thing to say whether a Committee was unanimous or not, but I do not mind, when challenged, saying that there was only one point—whether the townships should be included or not—upon which there was a difference of opinion. One noble Lord thought it would be well to include all the townships, and for the moment he found himself in a minority, but on every other question connected with the Bill we were unanimous.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: I should not have referred to that point but for what the noble Duke said about the numbers by which the Bill was carried in the Committee of the House of Commons. I thought it was only right that we should know precisely what was the case with regard to our own Committee. To my mind this matter should be looked at somewhat broadly. As to the appeal to precedent, I am lost in astonishment to hear that there are no precedents for the extension of large towns to districts adjoining them. I would have thought there were numerous precedents.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: Not against the will of the people.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: Against their will precisely. I have no doubt the ingenious counsel who appeared before the Committee showed that it was a most outrageous proceeding to annex these districts to the City of Dublin, and that such a proceeding was unprecedented. Is it not a fact that every effort that is made to increase cities and towns meets with strong opposition? It is always a matter of the greatest difficulty to persuade the districts in the neighbourhood of a large town to consent to come in, but on grounds of public policy it is frequently done, and I firmly believe it is always most desirable, even against the will of those districts. I am rather surprised,

seeing that the Committee entertained, in common with the noble Duke, such views against annexation, that they brought themselves to agree that even one district should be annexed. Why is Kilmainham sacrificed? Some ill-natured people say it is because it has a poor population, but I do not know whether that is true or not. At any rate, the Committee succeeded in persuading themselves that one district should be sacrificed. I have not the slightest doubt whatever that these districts will eventually become part of Dublin. It only means that if this motion is rejected there will be more controversy, larger expense, and more trouble to all parties concerned. The advantages of uniting the whole district are considerable, especially in regard to sanitary matters. I agree with the noble Duke as to the state of the Liffey, than which I cannot conceive anything more objectionable; but I cannot imagine how you can have a satisfactory system of drainage for Dublin and the adjoining districts unless it is conducted by the central authority. I think the argument of my noble friend (Lord Tweedmouth) with regard to the City of London was a fair one. What he said was that the difficulties in London had arisen through the City of London in olden times not being enlarged. The measures which have been taken no doubt have not been now completely to unify London, but they have all been in the direction of giving London a central authority for those special purposes for which everyone is agreed that a central authority is necessary. I think it is to be deprecated, looking at the remarkably strong opinion which undoubtedly exists in the other House in regard to this Bill, that we should not be content to allow the Bill to pass and bring this long-standing controversy to an end. I do not suppose that it is possible to induce your Lordships to alter the decision of your Committee, but as in my opinion this House is about to take an unwise decision, I shall, if my noble friend goes to a Division, vote with him.

THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: I should like to point out that there is hardly any precedent for taking over a local authority against its will, except in cases where that local authority is such that it constitutes a danger.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of MORLEY): My Lords, I do not at all desire to enter into the merits of this important question, but I do not think it would be right for me to give a silent vote. The questions involved in the extension of large towns are exceedingly difficult and complicated. There are, no doubt, ample precedents for the extension of towns, and for the absorption of the surrounding districts against their will. But this is never done except after very careful investigation into all the circumstances of the case. This question is unusually complicated, and it is still further complicated by the position in which your Lordships find yourselves in respect to the other House of Parliament. It is not my duty, nor, indeed, have I the knowledge sufficiently to enable me, to go into the intricacies of the case which has been stated clearly to your Lordships. Those statements are the statements admittedly of advocates on both sides. The House has had no opportunity of hearing the evidence weighed and sifted, which it has taken two

Committees seventeen and fourteen days respectively to discuss and investigate. No one would for a moment dispute the perfect right the House has to revise the decisions of its own Committees. In some cases it may be right to do so, especially in cases where sufficient evidence may not have been taken, and where the Committee may be held to have neglected to hear the evidence that has been brought before it, or where other matters may have occurred which constituted a failure of justice. But in this case the Committee is admitted to have heard the case before it with the greatest patience, and the noble Duke is admitted to have presided over its deliberations with great ability and patience. Under the circumstances, I think it would not be right for the House to reverse the decision given by the Committee after a great deal of investigation and patience, and I feel myself bound to vote in favour of upholding the decision of the Committee.

On Question, their Lordships divided:—
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NOT-CONTENTS.

Halsbury, E. (*L. Chancellor.*)
Devonshire, D. (*L. President.*)
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Camperdown, E.
Clarendon, E.
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Denbigh, E.

Doncaster, E. (*D. Buccleuch and Queensberry.*)

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Wolseley, V.

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Stanley of Alderley, L.
Sudley, L. (*E. Arran.*)
Templemore, L.
Ventry, L.
Wemyss, L. (*E. Wemyss.*)
Windsor, L.

The said Amendment insisted on accordingly: The remaining Amendments insisted on; and the Commons Amendments and consequential Amendments disagreed to: A Committee appointed to prepare reasons for the Lords insisting on their Amendments, and for disagreeing to the

Commons Amendments and consequential Amendments: The Committee to meet forthwith: Report from the Committee of the reasons prepared by them read, and agreed to; and a message sent to the Commons to return the said Bill, with the reasons.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 20) BILL.**BOOTLE CORPORATION BILL.****DUBLIN CORPORATION (MARKETS) BILL.****LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (GENERAL POWERS) BILL.****LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (MONEY) BILL.**

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

CLYDE NAVIGATION BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments: The said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

FYLDE WATER BOARD BILL [H.L.].**NORTH-EASTERN AND HULL AND BARNSELY RAILWAYS (JOINT DOCK) BILL [H.L.].****SALFORD CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].****WAKEFIELD CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].**

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ARMY (MEDICAL DEPARTMENT).

Report for year 1898; Volume XL.

COLONIES (ANNUAL).

No. 264. Gambia: Annual Report for 1898.

No. 265. St. Helena: Annual Report for 1898.

INDIA (CANTONMENT REGULATIONS).

Rules and applied enactments issued by the Government of India, 16th June, 1899.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.

1. Twenty-eighth Annual Report, 1898-99.

2. Supplement containing the Report of the Medical Officer, for 1898-99.

INEBRIATES ACTS, 1879 AND 1888.

Nineteenth Report of the Inspector of Retreats under the Inebriates Acts, 1879 and 1888, for the year 1898.

REFORMATORY AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS (GREAT BRITAIN).

Forty-second Report, for the year 1898, of Her Majesty's Inspector of Reformatory and Industrial Schools.

PRISONS (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Report of the Commissioners of Prisons and the Directors of Convict Prisons, for the year ended 31st March, 1899.

POLICE (METROPOLIS).

Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, for the year 1898.

EVICCTIONS (IRELAND).

Return of evictions in Ireland, for the quarter ended 30th June, 1899.

NATIONAL EDUCATION (IRELAND).

Annual Report of the Commissioners, for the year 1898-99.

Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table.

COUNTY TREASURERS (IRELAND) (FEE FUND).

Account for the year ended 25th March, 1899; laid before the House [pursuant to Act], and ordered to lie on the Table.

BATHS AND WASHHOUSES ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

To be read 2^a To-morrow.—(*The Lord Harris.*)

AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION (IRELAND) BILL.**SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS BILL.****IMPROVEMENT OF LAND BILL.**

Amendments reported [according to Order]: then Standing Order No. XXXIX. considered [according to Order], and dispensed with. Bills read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

MANCHESTER CANONRIES BILL [H.L.].**MARRIAGES VALIDITY (No. 2) BILL [H.L.].**

Returned from the Commons agreed to.

COMMONS AND OPEN SPACES BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.

BOARD OF EDUCATION BILL [H.L.]
(No. 202.)

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (DEFECTIVE AND EPILEPTIC CHILDREN) BILL [H.L.] (No. 203.)

POOR LAW ACTS AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.] (No. 204.)

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments; the said Amendments to be printed, and to be considered To-morrow.

LINCOLNSHIRE CORONERS BILL [H.L.]

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments; the said Amendments to be printed. (No. 205.)

METROPOLITAN POLICE BILL.

SECOND READING.

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

LORD BELPER: My Lords, this small Bill, which has come up from the other House, is practically a money Bill. It deals solely with the salaries of the Chief Commissioner of Police, the Assistant-Commissioner, and the Receiver. At present those salaries are fixed and limited by Act of Parliament, and are payable out of the Votes; but in order to make them at all adequate for present requirements they are supplemented by a considerable number of allowances, which are out of all proportion to the services for which they are given. This is a very unsatisfactory state of things, and one which it is not desirable should continue. The object of this Bill is to enable the Secretary of State, who has agreed on this point with the Treasury, to give adequate salaries to these officers, and arrange what proportion of their salaries shall be paid out of the Votes, and what proportion shall come out of the Police Fund. It is not thought that this will make any extra charge, or any substantial charge, on the Votes, but it will certainly be an improvement on the present state of things. I do not think, under the circumstances, this being a money Bill, that it is necessary for me to say any more with reference to it, and I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

Bill read 2^a (according to Order); Committee negatived; then Standing Order No. 39 considered (according to Order), and dispensed with; Bill read 3^a, and passed.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES BILL [H.L.]

Amendments reported (according to Order).

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Amendments reported (according to Order).

Formal Amendments agreed to.

Clause 9:—

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: My Lords, I beg to move to omit Clause 9, and to insert a new clause, which in some respects resembles the clause I proposed when the Bill was in Committee, but which I withdrew at the request of the noble Lord in charge of the Bill. I do not like the new clause as well as my own proposal, but I must make the best of what I can get. I should like to know if the Government will accept the clause standing in my name.

Amendment moved—

“To leave out Clause 9, and insert as a new clause:

“1. If before the expiration of seven days after the introduction of Confirmation Bill under the immediately preceding section in the House in which it originates, a petition be presented against any Order comprised in the Bill, it shall be lawful for any Member to give notice that he intends to move that the Bill shall be referred to a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament. Any such motion may be debated on the Second Reading of the Bill, and immediately after the Bill is read a second time the question thereon shall be put without Amendment or further debate. If such motion is carried, the Bill shall stand referred to a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament, and the opponent shall, subject to the practice of Parliament, be allowed to appear and oppose by himself, his counsel, agent, and witnesses; and counsel, agents, and witnesses may be heard in support of the Order. The Joint Committee shall hear and determine any question of *locus standi*.

“2. The report of the Joint Committee shall, subject to Standing Orders, be laid before both Houses of Parliament.

"3. The Joint Committee may, by a majority, award costs, and such costs may be taxed and recovered, and shall be secured in the manner provided in the Parliamentary Costs Act, 1865, subject to any necessary modifications.

"4. If no such motion as in Sub-section 1 of this section mentioned is carried, the Bill shall be deemed to have passed the stage of Committee, and shall be ordered to be considered as if reported by a Committee.

"When such Bill has been read a third time and passed in the first House of Parliament, the like proceedings shall, subject to Standing Orders, be taken in the second House of Parliament."—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

THE EARL OF MORLEY: Before the noble Lord answers the question whether he will accept the Amendment or not, I should like to say that I object to the clause, inasmuch as it renders absolutely necessary a Debate in the House on every Order to which there is opposition. My noble friend's clause provides that the reference to the Joint Committee of both Houses—that is, the rehearing before the Joint Committee—shall not be allowed unless it is moved for by some Member in either House.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: In the House in which it originates.

THE EARL OF MORLEY: Well, in whichever House it originates this clause makes it necessary, where there is opposition, that there should be a Debate on every Order, however small it may be. I do not anticipate, as I have said, that it will affect a large number of Orders, but the principle seems to me an objectionable one. There is one other point to which I should like to draw attention. It is that at the present time it is difficult to forecast what the character will be of the tribunal which will try these Orders in the first instance. I hope it will turn out to be a good tribunal, but it is possible that you will find great difficulty in getting Peers and Members to sit on these inquiries, which will, therefore, be entirely conducted by the extra-Parliamentary panel. I think everyone who appears before those tribunals should have the right, without asking leave of the House, to appeal to the Joint Committee. One of the safeguards against an abuse of this power is the question of costs.

***THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND** (Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH): I am quite

sensible of the strength of the objection urged by the noble Earl the Chairman of Committees, but I think he went rather far in saying that this clause would involve a Debate in all cases. I venture to hope that will not be so, and that there will be some cases in which the right of a person to appear will be settled by the Chairman of Committees, and the House will, I hope, take his advice. I have never concealed my dislike to the changes that were made by the other House, but I know that to attempt to reverse their decision at the present stage of the session would be tantamount to losing the Bill. Therefore, although I do not like the tribunal so much as the one which was originally in the Bill, I think it would be a breach of faith, the Amendment having been accepted in the other House, to go back upon it. Having balanced the advantages and the disadvantages of all the courses open to us, the course suggested in the proposed new clause is the one which, we think, involves the least evil. The clause has been carefully adjusted by the officers of this House and the other House, and if the noble Earl at the Table does not very strongly persevere in his objection, I will accept the Amendment.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: My Lords, I hope the noble Lord at the Table will not press his objection to this clause, for it at any rate does something to reduce the chance of a second inquiry. My own personal view is that a single Parliamentary inquiry is the proper tribunal to which private Bills and Provisional Orders should be referred. The object of the noble Lord's Amendment is to make the second inquiry dependent upon a special vote of the House. I hope that—as the noble Lord anticipates—this will prove one more difficulty in the way of the second inquiry. For that reason, although I do not think the clause will be of very great service, I hope it will be inserted in the Bill in preference to Clause 9 as it at present stands.

THE EARL OF MORLEY: I am placed in a very awkward position, but in view of the appeals which have been made to me from both sides of the House I can hardly take the responsibility of urging the objections which I feel very strongly to this clause.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 11 :—

***LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH** : I promised to consider Clause 11 on the last stage, and I now have to move the insertion of a new clause to take the place of Clause 11 in the Bill. As the clause now stands, it provides that any county council or town council or local authority connected with the locality to which any draft Provisional Order referred to Commissioners relates may make a report in writing to the Commissioners respecting the provision of the draft Order, and the Commissioners shall consider such report and any recommendations therein contained. This would limit the powers of county councils and town councils in regard to a Bill coming under the new procedure, and the object of the Amendment standing in my name is to leave their powers exactly as at present, which we consider the proper thing to do.

Amendment moved—

"To leave out Clause 11, and insert, as a new clause:

"(1) County Councils shall have the same powers and be subject to the same restrictions in regard to proceedings under or in pursuance of this Act as they now have or are subject to under the provisions of Section 56 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889, in regard to Private Bills or Confirmation Bills.

"(2) Town councils and burgh commissioners shall have the same powers and be subject to the same restrictions in regard to proceedings under or in pursuance of this Act as they now have or are subject to in regard to Private Bills or Confirmation Bills.

"(3) In addition, any county council or town council or burgh commissioners connected with the locality to which any draft Provisional Order referred to Commissioners under this Act relates, may make a report to the Commissioners respecting the provisions of the draft order, and the Commissioners shall consider the recommendations contained in the Report."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 17 :—

***LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH** : Clause 17 formed the subject of discussion at the last stage, and I am agreed that the Chairman should be relieved from the duty of considering objections to any draft Order on the ground that the under-

taking proposed to be authorised by the Order would destroy or injure any building or other object of historical interest, or would injuriously affect any natural scenery. I have placed Amendments on the Paper transferring this duty to the Secretary for Scotland.

Amendments moved—

"In line 35, to leave out 'chairman' and insert 'Secretary for Scotland'; and in line 39, to leave out 'chairman' and insert 'Secretary for Scotland' and leave out from 'if' to 'who' in page 10, line 2, and insert 'he thinks fit to refer such objection to the Commissioners.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 18 :—

***LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH** : This clause provides that the expression "agent" includes all law agents within the meaning of the Law Agents (Scotland) Act, 1873, any person entitled to practise as solicitor in any Court of Justice in England or Ireland, and any person entitled to practise as agent according to the practice and rules of either House of Parliament in cases of Private Bills and matters relating thereto. There seems to be a general consensus of opinion amongst the legal authorities in this House that the words "any person entitled to practise as solicitor in any court of justice in England or Ireland" should be omitted, and I beg to move the Amendment standing in my name.

Amendment moved—

"In line 10, to leave out from '1873' to 'and' in line 12."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

LORD TWEEDMOUTH : I am glad that the noble Lord has acceded to the suggestion which I made on the last stage of the Bill. It will give satisfaction to the law agents of Scotland to know that their little trade union is by this means protected.

Amendment agreed to.

Bill to be read 3^d To-morrow; and to be printed as amended. (No. 206.)

SMALL HOUSES (ACQUISITION OF OWNERSHIP) BILL.

THIRD READING.

Order of the Day for the Third Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 3^d."—(*The Earl of Selborne.*)

*THE EARL OF WEMYSS: My Lords, the noble Earl (the Earl of Selborne), when he moved the Second Reading of this Bill, said the Bill was on the lines of the measure introduced by the noble Lord the Marquess of Londonderry. I should like to point out that it differs materially from the Bill that was brought in by the noble Marquess. To begin with, it has a different title. The title of Lord Londonderry's Bill was a remarkable one; it was "To Enable Working Men to Acquire Their Own Houses." I do not see why, if they had their own houses, it was necessary to give them money to acquire them. Lord Londonderry's Bill also differed from this Bill inasmuch as it was only for working men. This Bill is more general in its character. I object altogether to this kind of legislation, which compels people who do not want to buy their own houses to be taxed for those who do. There is a limit of expenditure in the Bill of a penny in the £, but we know what these limits eventually come to. We have an example in the School Board rate. This is the fourth or fifth of the seven lollipops promised by Mr. Chamberlain at the last General Election. I quite admit that opposition to anything proposed by the Government at the hands of Mr. Chamberlain is useless, but at any rate I shall enter my protest against the Bill.

THE EARL OF SELBORNE: I am afraid the noble Earl has not read the Bill. There is no compulsion whatever in it, and there is not the slightest intention to lay any charge on the ratepayers. The penny limit is put in in case the local authority should so mismanage the affair that an expense is incurred; but the whole object of the Bill is that there shall be no expense at all.

*THE EARL OF WEMYSS: Whatever my noble friend may say, I dare him to deny that there is in the Bill, no matter

for what purpose, a power of rating up to a penny in the £.

On Question agreed to.

Bill read 3^d accordingly, with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

COMPANIES BILL [H.L.]

THIRD READING.

Order of the Day for Third Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 3^d."—(*The Earl of Dudley.*)

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of HALSBURY): My Lords, there are one or two observations which I think it is desirable I should make to your Lordships. There were some clauses introduced in the Bill in Committee having relation to questions which I think are very interesting to medical men and pharmaceutical chemists. I have received a very large number of communications upon the subject, and I am fully alive to the necessity of guarding very carefully the language by which the intentions of the measure, as manifested by the amended form of the Bill, should be carried out. I am still very strongly convinced that a company ought not to be permitted to do what a private person is prohibited from doing, and that the public must be protected against practices of that sort. It is impossible to resist the propriety of subjecting those companies who are at present carrying on business as chemists and druggists to restrictions such as are proposed in the Bill. I daresay your Lordships will remember that cases have decided—and in my opinion rightly decided—that the language which calls upon a person to qualify in any of the professions does not in turn apply to companies, and that the word "person" in the Acts which form the code upon the subject must be constructed as meaning a natural person and not a company. The idea of an ideal personage, such as a company, practising and undergoing an examination is absurd, and cannot cohere with the language of the Statute. In my view the learned judges who came to the conclusion that that was the true construction of the Statute were

perfectly right; and that decision left the law that a company could be formed to do the very thing which an individual is not permitted to do without examination as to qualifications. I think I may say that the Committee to whom this matter was referred were unanimously of opinion that the formation of companies to practise any profession, and which intended really to take advantage of company machinery to do that which an individual without qualification may not do, should be stopped. As I have said, I have received a large bulk of correspondence on the subject, and in some of the communications which have been sent to me it is suggested that this is an effort to prevent proper enterprise and so forth. As a matter of fact, I think the writers were not familiar with the state of the law. It is true to say that, although a company cannot be prosecuted for doing it, and a company cannot undergo an examination to enable them to do it, yet if an individual dispenses without qualification you can catch him and prosecute. And it was in view of the state of the law on the subject that the Committee to which this matter was referred came to their conclusion. I must say that I quite agree that if this matter is to come forward, as it probably will in another session, it is desirable that we should guard very carefully the language used, so as not to interfere with any proper vested interest; but, on the other hand, we should not allow the public generally to be exposed to the dangers of the practising of unqualified persons as dispensers. What I said on a former occasion, that the Committee were practically unanimous, appears to have given rise to controversy. I say so still. It is true there were certain divisions on matters of detail during the investigations, which lasted three years—some members of the Committee went one way and some the other—but they were not important questions. What I said before, and what I adhere to now, was that on the main lines of the Bill—the important matters under the Bill—the measure, as now presented, represents the practically unanimous decision of the Committee. I think, my Lords, that it is a subject of congratulation that on such a subject practical unanimity has been attained. At this period of the session I think it is perhaps not worth while that I should go through the whole clauses of

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the Bill. I have said all that is necessary on the Report of Amendments to the Bill. I can only add that I believe the Bill will be a very great improvement on the state of the law as it exists at present, and that it will in a great measure check the creation of fraudulent companies, which I think is the proper thing to do, and not enact a penal code against persons engaged in the conduct of such enterprises.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY: My Lords, I certainly agree with the noble and learned Lord that the Committee deserve approbation for having given a great deal of attention to this extremely complicated and difficult subject. Not being either learned in the law or connected with companies, which is, perhaps, an advantage, I hold any opinions with regard to it with much modesty. But, having heard all the excellent evidence which was presented to us, I agree with the Lord Chancellor that in the main proposals the Committee were practically unanimous. The object of the Committee was to try and devise some system by which we might not interfere with honest directors or with the important system of companies having limited liability in this country, but at the same time check a certain amount of the fraud and malfeasance which undoubtedly exists. There seems to be a rather undue impatience to enact very strong penal laws, with the idea that such a code would remove some of the evils complained of. I do not think the history of our legislation teaches us that lesson. Frequently the most violent and stringent laws have failed in consequence of their extreme stringency. The law, to be really effective, must carry with it the general consent of the community, and if you make a law which touches unduly men who have embarked in these matters with nothing but honest intentions, you will make hard cases and create a prejudice against your legislation. It is much better in a very difficult subject of this kind to proceed cautiously, and where there is great doubt and great difference of opinion you should not hastily determine to legislate, but confine yourselves to those broad points on which there is general agreement. I think that was what mainly actuated the Committee. I earnestly hope, after the long time which has been spent on this subject, and in view of the anxiety which undoubtedly

prevails for some legislation, that a Bill will be brought forward next session, and that Her Majesty's Government will give it every support in order that it may become the law of the land.

THE EARL OF DUDLEY: After what has fallen from the noble Lords who have spoken, I do not think there is much necessity for me to enter into this discussion, but I should like to say that I quite agree with what the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack said as to the Committee being practically unanimous on the main points of the Bill. Of course, as the noble and learned Lord said, there were details connected with the Bill on which we had differences of opinion, but I think it is quite true to say that on the main policy of the Bill the Committee were practically unanimous. There is no doubt that, as the Bill was originally introduced, its provisions were of too drastic a nature. I do not think it is too much to say that the evidence we had before us showed that these drastic provisions were in many cases undesirable, and the Committee were unanimously of opinion that we had better, in the interests of honest directors and of commercial life generally, soften down those drastic provisions, and attempt to make the Bill of a more workable character.

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read 3^a accordingly, and passed and sent to the Commons.

ROYAL NIGER COMPANY BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order); Bill reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^a To-morrow.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING (CLAUSES) BILL.

Read 3^a (according to Order), and passed.

LAND TAX COMMISSIONERS' NAMES BILL.

SECOND READING.

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

***LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH:** My Lords, this a Bill which has to pass once during every Parliament, the object being
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to enable additions to be made to the list of the Land Tax Commissioners in each district. After the Bill is introduced in another place notification of that fact is sent to the Land Tax Commissioners' Clerk, and he furnishes names which are afterwards put into a schedule to be signed by the Clerk of the House of Commons. This Bill is really in the nature of an Expiring Laws Continuance Bill, and I beg to move that it be read a second time.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^a."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh*.)

LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY: Does the Bill apply to Land Commissioners in London, or to the Land Commissioners all over the country? If the latter, I was hoping that the authorities at Somerset House were going to put in more responsible persons. At the present moment these matters are under the control of magistrates, who neglect the duty and place it in the hands of the Income Tax Commissioners. The Inland Revenue Department say they have no authority in this matter, and refuse to refund money which has been unjustly collected.

***LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH:** This Bill refers to Land Tax Commissioners all over the country, and the Inland Revenue Department have no authority over these bodies; the whole of their power is derived direct from Parliament. I am not able to say how the matter came to be settled and arranged as it is, but this Bill makes no change in the existing law.

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read 2^a accordingly; Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^a To-morrow.

NAVAL WORKS BILL.

Read 2^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow, and Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered in order to its being dispensed with.

PATRIOTIC FUND BILL.

SECOND READING.

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

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THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (the Marquess of LANSDOWNE): My Lords, the object of this Bill is to amend the Patriotic Fund Act, 1881, which limits the application of the funds dealt with under it to the widows and children of officers and men. There is a surplus, and we take power under this Bill to apply that surplus to the relief of relatives other than widows and children.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^a."—(*The Marquess of Lansdowne.*)

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read 2^a accordingly; Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^a To-morrow.

RESERVE FORCES BILL.

SECOND READING.

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: This Bill amends the Reserve Forces Act, 1882. Under that Act the Reserve can only be maintained within the limits of the United Kingdom. This Bill enables a man serving in the colonies or in India to be passed to the Reserve at the expiration of his service without coming home. He would then be available for service in the colony in which he happens to reside. We do not expect that the Bill will affect more than a small number of men.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^a."—(*The Marquess of Lansdowne.*)

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read 2^a (according to Order); Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^a To-morrow.

TELEGRAPHS (TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION, &c.) BILL.

SECOND READING.

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (The Duke of NORFOLK): My Lords, this Bill is introduced with a view of extending the facilities for telephonic com-

munication which already exist. There has been a growing feeling for some years that the facilities are not sufficient. A Committee of the House of Commons considered the matter in 1895, and they reported the evidence taken before them, but they did not produce any further Report. Last session a Committee was again appointed to inquire into the matter, and they reported that the facilities at present existing were not satisfactory from a general point of view, and were not likely to become so as long as the only medium of telephonic communication was the National Telephone Company, which had practically assumed a monopoly in this matter. They recommended that competition was desirable, and that it should take the form of more active competition on the part of the Post Office, and that municipalities, where they desired to do so, should have facilities for entering on telephonic work. This Bill empowers a loan of £2,000,000 to enable the Post Office to carry on competition where it is desirable, and if the Bill is passed the Post Office intend, as quickly as possible, to enter into active competition in London and in places where they have already got exchanges, such as Newcastle, Cardiff, &c. The Bill further enables corporations and urban authorities to use their rates for promoting telephonic work. Having that power, they have to obtain for the purpose a licence from the Postmaster-General, and that licence will only be given on the condition that no preference will be shown among those who come to them as users for the telephone. Their plant must be approved by the Postmaster-General, and the rates must be between a minimum and maximum, also to be approved by the Postmaster-General. If any municipality obtains a licence, the National Telephone Company may also receive a licence for the same term of years in the exchange in which that corporation exists, but they must come under the same conditions—the conditions I have just stated—except in cases in which they have no way-leave granted them by the municipality, and in those cases the minimum of their charges will be at their own discretion. If in any exchange in which the company are also granted a licence they have a grant of way-leave from the corporation, that grant is extended to them during the period of the licence, and cannot be taken away by the

corporation. If the corporation in an exchange takes a licence, and the company elect to take a licence also, that licence will extend throughout the whole area of the exchange although the boundaries of the corporation may not be coterminous with the area of that exchange. If the licence extends to eight years beyond the present term of the licence, which is 1911, the company having that licence is bound, under certain rules to be drawn up by the Postmaster-General, to grant inter-communication to those who are on the municipal telephone, and the municipality, on the other hand, are bound to extend the same facilities of inter-communication to the company. The company is not permitted to create any fresh exchange without the sanction of the Postmaster-General, and no company may obtain a licence in any exchange without the sanction of the municipality within whose boundaries that company would work. We trust that this Bill will tend in the direction of bringing the boon of telephonic communication to certain wide classes of the community who hitherto have been unable to enjoy it; that it has been framed as far as possible to give great benefits to the community without infringing unduly the rights of the company, who have laboured for many years to promote telephonic communication; and that it will encourage municipalities to come forward and create the competition which we think is so desirable.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^d."—(*The Duke of Norfolk*.)

***LORD HARRIS:** My Lords, I should be grateful if I might be allowed to offer a few remarks on this Bill. It is not usual for a member of the Government to offer anything in the shape of criticism of a Government Bill, but my remarks are so very mildly critical that I hope they may be excused on that ground. Before venturing to criticise the Bill, I took the advice of the noble Marquess, who said that if it was necessary I certainly had his permission. This is a highly important Bill, apart from the fact that it involves an expenditure of £2,000,000. It is very much in the nature of an experiment, and believing that your Lordships are always anxious that important measures should be discussed as fully as possible, and

especially by those who know something of the matter, I venture to offer a few remarks. I am a director of the National Telephone Company, and have learned something about telephones; but I approach the consideration of this Bill entirely from the point of view of a telephone user. I cannot help thinking that the noble Duke will not object if I offer a few remarks from that point of view. As the noble Duke has said, the object of the Bill is to promote telephonic communication and to make it of wider use. The groundwork of his proposal is, I fancy, the Report of the Committee of the House of Commons which sat last year, and which eventually found that the supply given by the National Telephone Company was insufficient and inefficient. What I have to observe on the use of those expressions is this, that the National Telephone Company is not the only body that supplies telephone service in this country. The Post Office also supplies a service. A very large proportion of England, Ireland, and Scotland is mapped out into exchange areas, and within each of those areas the Telephone Company supply the service. But if a subscriber in one area wishes to speak to a subscriber in another area he has to go upon the lines worked by the Post Office, which are called the trunk lines, and I can assure the noble Duke that if he would appoint a committee of impartial persons who use the telephone to report on the trunk service, that committee would report that that service was insufficient and inefficient. Only the other day a friend of mine, a Member of this House, who is on a telephone exchange in Yorkshire, and also in London, wanting to speak from his own house in Yorkshire to his house in London, was kept waiting an hour and a half. He complained bitterly, as if it was the fault of the Telephone Company. I made inquiries, and ascertained that the delay had nothing whatever to do with the company, the Post Office was responsible. As £2,000,000 are to be obtained under the Bill for the extension and improvement of the telephone service, I trust it will be possible for the noble Duke to utilise some portion of the money in improving and extending the trunk lines. If he would do that he would earn the gratitude of a very large number of telephone users. There is another point to which I would like to call attention. The Post Office has the power, or at any rate

it claims the power, of refusing to allow the National Telephone Company's wires to cross railways, and the result is that not only in those towns where the Post Office is in competition with the company, but also in London, where it is not at the present time in competition—and I should doubt the possibility of its being able to come into thorough competition for two or three years at the earliest—a considerable number of people are unable to obtain telephone service at all. I submit that if these would-be subscribers are to be taxed, as they must be under this Bill, for the purpose of improving the telephone service of the country, it will be a hardship if the refusal of the Post Office as regards these wires crossing railways is continued, and these would-be subscribers prevented from coming on to the only service that can be given to them. At present the Post Office declines to put some towns on the trunk service; that is to say, it declines to extend its trunk wires to these particular towns unless the company will guarantee the Post Office against loss. Last year, if I remember rightly, the noble Duke reduced the amount of the guarantee which the Post Office had up till then demanded from such persons as required a private telegraph. Well, the telephone is a telegraph. It has been found so by the courts, but the noble Duke has not reduced the amount which is required from the National Telephone Company for guaranteeing against loss. Take the important and populous town of Southend. That town would not at the present moment be on the trunk service if it were not for the National Telephone Company having guaranteed the Post Office against loss. As this large sum of money is being taken for improving the telephone service of the country, I trust it will be possible to find enough money to extend the trunk wires and relieve the company of this incubus. It is not for me to criticise the provisions of the Bill, which I think the noble Duke must admit is an experiment. The experience of nearly every country, including the United States, is that a monopoly can work the telephone best, just as a monopoly was found to work the telegraph best. The National Telephone Company has been held up to ridicule as supplying the worst and most expensive service in the world; but, curiously enough, the Government in

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their proposals to improve that state of things have made up their minds that it is wiser not to follow the example of other countries. We shall all look forward with considerable interest to the result of this experiment. As one who, apart altogether from his connection with the company or the system of supply, believes that the telephone is one of the most useful discoveries for the convenience of society, as well as of commerce, that has been brought into use for many years, I sincerely trust that the policy recommended in the Bill will be successful; but I am bound to say that those who know a great deal about the telephone system are by no means confident that the step taken by the Government in this matter is a wise one.

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House Tomorrow, and Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered in order to its being dispensed with.

MILITARY WORKS BILL.

SECOND READING.

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, under this Bill we take power to borrow a sum of £4,000,000 for military works in continuation of the Military Works Loans Act, 1897. A part of the expenditure to be incurred will be for defences; another—and by far the larger—part for barracks; and there is also a sum for providing ranges for Volunteers, a subject which was discussed in this House not many days ago. I think it is generally admitted that there are advantages in dealing with a large expenditure of this kind under loan, and not under the ordinary Estimates. I noticed the other day that my predecessor at the War Office admitted

“That there is a great convenience in loans when you can contemplate a uniform, steady, and uninterrupted expenditure of money upon a particular service without being exposed to the freaks and vicissitudes of the Estimates.”

That is obviously one advantage of proceeding by loan. You can make your contracts beforehand, and carry out your

programme steadily, deliberately, and methodically, and without the apprehension that supplies may be forthcoming one year and not the next. I am, of course, very far from suggesting that expenditure of this kind should be withdrawn from the scrutiny and surveillance of Parliament, and we shall every year present to both Houses a statement showing how much we have spent during the past and previous years, and how much we intend to spend during the coming year. It is, I think, fair to argue that when the Government of the day finds itself compelled to undertake a general revision of our defences, or a large scheme of barrack construction from which the Army will benefit for many years to come, the burden of the expenditure involved should not fall entirely upon the four or five years over which the execution of the works might be spread. This, at any rate, has been the policy adopted upon former occasions, and we have had loans of this kind in 1860, 1872, 1888, 1890, and 1897. I may be asked why, having borrowed, as we did, five and a-half millions in 1897 for this purpose, we come back to Parliament again so soon for a further loan. There is, I think, a sufficient answer to the question. In so far as defences are concerned, we have, since 1897, found it absolutely necessary to take up seriously the question of re-arming our defences, and we have come to the conclusion that both at home and abroad we can no longer put off the introduction of guns of a modern type, to take the place of the obsolete armament upon which, I am sorry to say, we are at present depending to an extent quite inconsistent with our national security. For these guns, which we are providing out of Estimates, suitable works will have to be provided, in most cases by the adaptation of works already in existence, and the £1,000,000 which we are borrowing for defences is for this purpose. As for barracks, Parliament, so lately as last year, sanctioned a large increase of the strength of the Army, and for this reason alone, apart from others of which I shall speak presently, it would be absolutely necessary that we should provide barracks in which to house the new troops, of which a considerable part has already been raised. Your Lordships have before you, in the first place, the Bill itself,

which follows the model of the Bill of 1897. The schedule of the Bill shows how the £4,000,000 is to be apportioned to the different services which we are about to undertake; but, besides the Bill itself, we have presented a schedule which gives an account of what I may describe as the complete War Office scheme, the whole of which will have to be ultimately undertaken if the two great questions of our defences and our barracks are to be dealt with in a complete fashion, and with as near an approach to finality as is possible when we consider the constantly altering conditions with which we have to deal. We are at this moment asking only for authority to undertake those services which seem to us most pressing; but we have thought it desirable that Parliament should know that, when these services have been completed, it may be called upon for additional funds to make good the whole of the deficiencies of which we are aware. We owe it to Parliament that it should see the whole scheme. We owe it to ourselves that we should not be open to the imputation of presenting to Parliament an imperfect and insufficiently thought-out programme. For defences—that is, not for guns, but for the works in which the guns will be placed—we take £1,000,000. As to this, I desire to explain that this expenditure does not represent a fitful and ill-considered outburst of military activity; nor, again, is it a scheme which has been evolved by the War Office without the fullest consideration of the problem of Imperial defence as a whole, and the fullest consultation with the representatives of the Navy. There have been apprehensions in some quarters that we were going to undertake a wholesale fortification of all our commercial ports. I have even seen it suggested that we were going to fortify pleasure resorts and bathing places. I need not say that all this is pure imagination. The scheme is mainly a scheme of revision. We have reviewed the defences of the Empire one by one, and as parts of one great system of defence in which the Army and Navy are partners. I may, indeed, say that in providing for the defence of different categories of ports and harbours, we have followed the classification laid down by the Admiralty. We recognise that our Fleets must be our first line of defence, and we take comfort in the reflection that

at no moment in the history of the country has the Navy been so powerful as it is at present; but, however strong our Navy, we cannot altogether dispense with fixed defences. The function of a powerful Navy is not to stand sentry over the coasts of the country to which it belongs, or over the stations and harbours upon which it has itself to depend. It must be mobile, it must be able to concentrate for a great and combined effort, even if such a concentration involves temporary denudation of the seaboard; but there are some points at home and abroad which are of such national importance, of such importance to the Navy itself, because, without them, the Navy, would have no place in which to renew its supplies of coal, or to refit or repair injuries, that we cannot allow an enemy to avail himself of their temporary exposure in order to attack them with a prospect of success. The damage done might, in some cases, be irreparable, or even if not irreparable, might inflict a ruinous shock upon public confidence. It follows that at all these points we must be strong enough to drive off any assailant whom we can reasonably expect, or, better still, to deter him from coming there at all. No battery might be more useful than that which was never called upon to fire a shot in anger, but the existence of which secured immunity for an important Imperial harbour, or even for a great commercial manufacturing centre. The places to be thus defended have been very carefully selected. We are far from saying that in all cases a port, once defended upon a certain scale, must always be defended upon that scale. There are gradations, and each place has been considered on its merits. We are concerned, first, with our dockyards and naval bases; secondly, with what are known to the Navy as secondary naval bases; thirdly, with our great strategic harbours such as Berehaven and Lough Swilly; and lastly, with commercial ports, to some of which—such, for example, as the Clyde and the Mersey—we think it absolutely necessary to give a moderate amount of defensive power. The House will understand that of the £1,000,000 which will now be spent upon the adaptation or reconstruction of defences, the whole will be spent upon works, and there will be no expenditure upon guns. These we shall provide for entirely on the annual Esti-

mate. But our scheme of works cannot be considered apart from our scheme for guns. We have undertaken to substitute for the obsolete guns which now form so large a part of the armament throughout our fortresses, both at home and abroad, a much smaller number of modern guns, superior to them in rapidity of firing, in destructive effect, in range, and in accuracy. The expenditure to be made under this Bill will enable us to provide the works necessary for the reception of those guns. In another respect, I am glad to say we shall greatly gain by the substitution—I mean in respect of the saving of *personnel* which will result from the substitution of a smaller number of modern for a large number of old-fashioned guns. One of the reproaches to which we are, I think, most open, is that we have been apt to consider these questions of armament without sufficient reference to the *personnel* of our Artillery, and I hail with the greatest satisfaction the relief which will be given to us by the change which I have just described. I now pass to the question of barracks. As I have already pointed out, the main justification of this expenditure is to be found in the recent increase of the Army. This alone, if we take the 25,000 men whom we are adding to the Army, at the usual figure per man, would involve an expenditure of about £3,000,000; but it must also be borne in mind that while we have been increasing the number of men—for whom we have to find accommodation—we have simultaneously been diminishing the amount of that accommodation. We have of late, and I am glad to think that we have done so, been condemning a number of old barracks. Some of these have been condemned because they were so insanitary that we could not safely house our troops in them. If I were minded to do so, I could give the House a somewhat lurid description of the condition of things which has been found to exist in some of our most old-fashioned and worn-out barracks. In a few cases we propose to get rid of existing barracks, because they are, from a military point of view, in the wrong place, perhaps in neighbourhoods where no training ground is available, or, again, because the regiment or battalion, instead of being concentrated at one spot, has been scattered about in detachments here and there. In regard to barracks at home we find, upon a review of our requirements, of the

number of barracks available, of the number under construction, and of the number which we have been obliged to condemn, that we are deficient in barrack accommodation for three regiments of Cavalry, eighteen batteries of Horse and Field Artillery, four companies of Garrison Artillery, and seven battalions of Infantry. But our liabilities do not end here, for there are, besides, a considerable number of barracks which are too good to be condemned, and which will not be replaced, but in the case of which a large expenditure of money will be necessary in order to provide accommodation for the eighty men whom we recently decided to add to each of our Infantry battalions. The whole of these deficiencies we hope ultimately to make good, and under the present Bill we shall make a very substantial commencement. The Bill also provides for additions to the dépôts of regiments to which we have lately added new battalions, for the completion of work at various barracks in progress under the Act of 1897, for further improvements in our large camps at Aldershot, Colchester, the Curragh and Shorncliffe, and for barracks at various foreign stations, among which Gibraltar, Malta, and Wei-hai-wei are the most notable. There can be no doubt that the substitution of new barracks of a more modern and convenient type will be an immense gain to the Army, both in respect to the health of the troops, their efficiency, their comfort, and last, but not least, in respect of the popularity of the Service. We are being driven, not reluctantly, in this direction by several distinct causes. There is, in the first place, the higher sanitary standard which now obtains universally in all classes of the community. Its observance is insisted upon in the case of all human habitations, a standard below which we ought not to fall in dealing with the buildings in which our troops have to pass their lives. In our private dwelling-houses, in our farms and cottages, in our factories, we are required to provide healthy surroundings for the inmates. If we fail in our duty that inspector who looms so large in the foreground of our lives is there to remind us of our shortcomings, and to see that we make them good. In the case of our barracks, public opinion is, perhaps, the most efficient kind of inspector, and public opinion would, I am convinced, insist upon our

taking these steps, even if we were not ready to do so of our own accord. Then, again, experience has shown us that nothing is so wasteful as the habit of constantly patching and tinkering these old buildings. I appeal to all of those who have had to do with house property of any kind, and I say, without hesitation, that in the long run I believe the public saves money by providing sound and properly-constructed buildings to take the place of some of the old fabrics which have for years past been so constant a drain upon the annual Estimates. I confess, however, that I do not defend our barrack proposals merely upon the ground that they will, in the long run, be economical, or because I wish to escape the condemnation of the sanitary experts. I hold very strongly that if voluntary service is to survive and succeed in this country, if we are to attract to the ranks of the Army men belonging to the class which we should like to see serving the Queen, it is our bounden duty, not only to divest what I might call the domestic life of the soldier of all squalid and repellent surroundings and associations, but to make it decent and as attractive as it can be made, consistently with sound economy. We have, I am glad to think, made considerable progress in these respects, and I do not think we have anything to be ashamed of in our most recently-constructed barracks, but we fully intend to travel further in the same direction. Our new barracks will contain one improvement which will, I think, be very acceptable to the troops. We intend to give them company dining-rooms, in which to take their meals, instead of compelling them, as now, to take them in the barrack rooms in which they sleep and clean and dry their clothes and accoutrements. We shall also be more liberal in such matters as drying-rooms, bath-rooms, and other minor conveniences. There is another question which I think requires an amount of consideration which has not yet been given to it. I refer to the sleeping accommodation of the private soldier. There is, I believe, in all classes of the community a growing desire for privacy. The soldier has none whatever in barracks. I think the time has come when we should, at all events, try an experiment in this direction by adapting our new barracks, or a part of the rooms in them, to the cubicle system, under

which each man is given, not a separate room, but a section of a room divided from the adjoining section by a barrier which effectually screens the inmate of one compartment from that of another. That experiment has been tried with signal success in the case of the buildings well known by the name of a Member of this House—I mean Lord Rowton, whose exertions on behalf of the working classes will be gratefully remembered, and not by the working classes alone. There are, I know, special difficulties in carrying out this system in soldiers' bedrooms, difficulties mainly of discipline. Moreover, some of the arrangements which have worked so well in the Rowton Houses would, no doubt, be inapplicable in barracks, and I am aware that there is a considerable body of military opinion decidedly adverse to this innovation. It is, however, regarded with favour by the Commander-in-Chief, and we mean to try the experiment, certainly in the new barracks, and perhaps in one or two of the old ones. We shall proceed cautiously, and I hope we shall not have to retrace our steps. I have said enough to show the House that we have a good deal of leeway to make up, both in respect of the quantity and the quality of our barrack accommodation, and we are applying ourselves seriously to the task. There remains to be considered the question of selecting sites for the new barracks. In doing this, our main object will be to keep units of the different branches of the Army together, for the sake of discipline and training, and to build only at stations where proper training ground can be provided in the immediate neighbourhood. The want of such training ground has been a serious drawback in many of our stations, and there are obvious advantages in bringing considerable masses of troops together at the same place, and thereby affording the commanding officers an opportunity of handling a comparatively large number of men. For these reasons, we intend to build on Salisbury Plain the greater part of the new barracks which will ultimately be required. The House will see, by reference to the Schedule in the Bill, the various other stations, both at home and abroad, at which it is proposed to spend money on the construction or improvement of barracks, and I shall be happy to afford further information on any point on which it may

The Marquess of Lansdowne.

be desired. I have already explained upon a recent occasion the nature of our proposal with regard to the rifle ranges for the Volunteers. The amount taken is a small one, but, if judiciously expended, will, I hope, be the means of materially alleviating the difficulty with which the Volunteer force has at present to contend in regard to range accommodation.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^a."
—(*The Marquess of Lansdowne.*)

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read 2^a accordingly; Committee negatived, and Bill to be read 3^a Tomorrow.

VALUATIONS AND ASSESSMENTS.

***LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH:** My Lords, I beg to move for a Return showing, with respect to each union in England and Wales:—

- (a.) The rateable value of (1) lands; (2) buildings; (3) railways; and (4) all other kinds of property, according to the valuation lists or other record of assessment last in force during the year ended Lady-day, 1870.
- (b.) The gross estimated rental and rateable value of (1) lands; (2) buildings; (3) railways; and (4) all other kinds of rateable property, according to the valuation lists in force in the Metropolis on the 6th day of April, 1894, and in the rest of England and Wales at Lady-day, 1894, and where there were no such lists in force, according to the last poor rate made before such dates respectively.
- (c.) The gross estimated rental and rateable value of (1) lands, distinguishing agricultural land from other lands; (2) buildings; (3) railways; and (4) all other kinds of rateable property, according to the valuation lists in force in the Metropolis on the 6th day of April 1899, and in the rest of England and Wales at Lady-day 1899, and where there were no such lists in force, according to the last poor rate made before such dates respectively.

For the purposes of this Return—

- (1) "Agricultural land" means the land defined as agricultural land in section nine of the Agricultural Rates Act, 1896; "other lands" should include lands other than agricultural land as above defined, farmhouses and farm buildings, and tithe rent-charges and uncommuted tithes, but should

exclude lands occupied as railways, canals, quarries, &c. :

- (2) "Buildings" should include houses (other than farmhouses), shops, warehouses, mills, factories, docks, wharves, etc. :
- (3) "Railways" should include stations and depôts : And
- (4) "All other kinds of rateable property" should include quarries, mines, iron-works, gasworks, waterworks, canals, and all other rateable properties which do not properly come under headings (1), (2), and (3).

The Local Government Board have agreed to this Return. It is wanted in connection with the inquiry which is being conducted by the Commission on Local Taxation, over which I have the honour to preside.

On Question, agreed to ; Return ordered to be laid before the House.

HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE, CHANCERY DIVISION (ADDITIONAL JUDGE).

THE EARL OF HALSBURY : My Lords, the main proposition contained in the motion which stands on your Lordships' Paper in my name—namely, that the state of legal business requires an additional Judge—was confirmed fourteen years ago by a strong Committee to whom the question was referred, and since that time the matter has become more urgent, arrears accumulating at an increasing rate. Your Lordships will probably entertain no doubt that such a motion should be made, and that is really the whole case so far as relevant matter is concerned ; but I observe that in another place opportunity was taken advantage of to raise a great many other questions, on some of which I propose to say a few words. With regard to the number of circuits, I am prepared to admit that in the arrangement of civil cases by diminishing the number of circuits there would be convenience, and no doubt it would avoid waste of judicial time. Efforts to try the experiment have been made more than once, and have as often been successfully resisted. In the administration of criminal justice I am not in favour of any such change. I do not believe that anything gives greater popularity and confidence in the administration of justice than the fact that in turn Her Majesty's judges go on circuit. When it is suggested that less important cases might be dealt with

by some other expedient, it should be remembered that, however humble a man's position, his liberty is as important as that of any other subject, and I do not believe that to get rid of trifling cases by remitting them to quarter sessions, or any other tribunal, would be a course that would command such confidence as is now entertained by the great bulk of Her Majesty's subjects in the administration of justice. Something like amalgamation of counties for civil trials might be arranged, and I once attempted to procure an Order in Council diminishing the number of places to which judges should go, but county after county resisted the alteration, and in the result I had to abandon the attempt. That with fewer circuits prisoners would be tried more rapidly is a proposition that cannot be maintained. Again and again during the past fourteen years I have noticed a strange reluctance of magistrates to admit prisoners to bail ; why, I do not know. Until Jarvis's Act was passed the criminal law was such that for a large class of offences prisoners had a right to bail, and actions were brought against magistrates for refusing bail or exacting unduly high bail. There seems, however, to be a persistent determination not to admit to bail, and this has been remarked upon by the Lord Chief Justice and many other judges. It may be a question whether it will be necessary to revert to a state of the law in which prisoners would have a right to bail. Next session I hope to introduce a Bill to relieve to some extent the work of judges by a system whereby prisoners disposed to plead guilty can be sentenced at once and not be detained. The system now is that a judge, finding a prisoner has been a long time in prison, passes a comparatively light sentence because he takes the length of time he has already been in prison into account, but the effect is that people not taking account of this practice are sometimes startled at what seems an inadequate sentence. I contemplate by the Bill I have mentioned an avoidance of this. It has been suggested that a large number of the less important criminal cases might be remitted to quarter sessions, but admirable as the jurisdiction of these magistrates is, it is not desirable that the more serious classes of offences should be committed to that jurisdiction. Nor is it desirable to remit minor civil cases to county courts. Those

courts are already overcrowded, and the many duties devolving upon county court judges are gradually squeezing out the original intention of those courts. I have a strong suspicion that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would find the alteration a source of considerable expense. These matters are not altogether relevant to the motion, but discussion in the other House has led me to refer to them.

Moved, "That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty, representing that the state of business in the High Court of Justice is such as to require the appointment of an additional judge; and praying that Her Majesty will be graciously pleased to appoint a new judge of the said High Court in the Chancery Division thereof, in pursuance of the eighteenth Section of the Appellate Jurisdiction Act, 1876."—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

*LORD COLERIDGE : My Lords, the fact that the noble Lord has gone beyond the terms of his motion tempts me to make a few observations. It will be seen that this motion appoints a judge for the Chancery Division. It is in that Division that the greatest block has occurred, and one of the chief reasons for it has been the fact that there are two scales of costs—one set on the Common Law side and another set on the Chancery side. Solicitors find that the scale of costs on the Chancery side is much more remunerative to them, and this has led to the Chancery Courts being blocked by a great number of actions that are in their nature Common Law actions which should be tried on the Common Law side. The noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack has spoken, without giving any very great hope of reform, of the various suggestions that have been made. I can assure the noble and learned Lord that something will have to be done. The block in the Law Courts is universally recognised. Some time ago it was suggested that everything could be put right if we had continuous sittings in London, but that scheme has hopelessly broken down. The theory was that throughout the legal year there should be always at least three courts sitting: one for special jury cases, one for common jury cases, and one for non-jury cases; but, as I have said, that has hopelessly broken down. Last week, day after day passed in this the metro-

polis of the greatest Empire in the world without a single special jury court, or a single common jury court, or a single non-jury court sitting. If you are to have continuous sittings in London working with the circuit system you must increase your judicial staff. I think the old system was best under which circuits were contemporaneous and under which, when the judges went on circuit, the courts in London were closed. When the judges returned they were all at full work until the circuit started again. It is recognised that twelve judges will do far more work in a fortnight than six judges can perform in a month. When a number of courts are sitting and the judge has power to send a case over to another court, business is expedited, but under the present system it often happens that your case is put down, your witnesses come up, everything is prepared for trial, you are in the list, and you find, when you ought to be called on, that your judge has gone off on circuit, and the whole thing is put back. With circuits and business in London going on at the same time neither is thoroughly well done. The general council of the Bar have made a most reasonable suggestion. They have recommended that a Commission should sit to inquire into the whole question, and I understand that Sir Edward Clarke in another place implied that Her Majesty's Government did not view unfavourably the communication from that body. The noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack has admitted that there is dissatisfaction with the present system, but I am afraid he does not give us much hope of immediate reform. I would suggest that the noble and learned Lord should consider whether or not some inquiry could be made with a view to a remedy being found for the present state of things, which is universally recognised to be thoroughly unsatisfactory.

LORD TEYNHAM : There was a case called the Brinsmead piano case, in which judgment was delivered by Mr. Justice North. A leading article appeared the next morning in the *Morning Post*, in which the fact was commented upon that the action was tried in the autumn of last year, and the judgment only then delivered. I think that is an argument in favour of the noble and learned Lord's motion. There was another case, *Shaw*

The Earl of Halsbury.

v. Holland and Others, in which the fair dealing of certain persons had been called into question, and in which large sums of money had become involved. The trial took place as long ago as July of last year, and not only has the judgment not been delivered, but the parties have not received any intimation from the learned judge that he will give judgment in the near future. I do not think I am going too far in saying that cases of this kind constitute a public scandal. The Chancery judges may be overworked, but I think it is hard to believe that Mr. Justice North has not had time between last year and now to give judgment in this case. I am glad that this motion has been moved, because it will render less excusable the scandals of which I have spoken.

THE EARL OF HALSBURY: I admit that the effort to combine the circuit system and the London business has, to some extent, been a failure; but I think it is a mistake to say that it has completely broken down. It was felt that the delay which occurred often meant serious injury to commerce, and that some improvements might be made. The motion I have submitted to your Lordships, which is the result of a fourteen years' agitation, is a step in this direction. What the noble and learned Lord (Lord Coleridge) has pointed out as having occurred during the last week has been exceptional. It is exceptional to find no judge doing judicial work in London even during the time of circuit. It is an observation constantly made, but inaccurate, that there are two scales of costs on the Chancery and Common Law side. I am bound to admit, however, that, though the scales of costs are the same, they are more charitably administered in one branch of the Court than another. That is true, and probably on that ground there is a greater preference for the Chancery side. But all the law can do is to lay down the scale of costs, and the scale as laid down by the law is the same in both cases. I think the suggestion as to an interchange of the Common Law and Chancery Taxing Masters might deserve consideration. I am not sufficiently aware of the cases mentioned by the noble Lord opposite (Lord Teynham) to say whether the delay which has taken place is justifiable, but I would point out that sometimes cases involve very long

consideration. I think it is only just to the learned judge concerned to say that the delay is certainly not due to any want of industry or attention to his duties. A more hard-working judge than Mr. Justice North is not to be found, and I suppose that there must be some exceptional circumstance to account for the delay that has arisen.

On Question, agreed to; and the said Address ordered to be presented to Her Majesty by the Lords with White Staves.

COLONIAL LOANS BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a To-morrow; and Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered in order to its being dispensed with.—(*The Earl of Selborne.*) (No. 207.)

EXPIRING LAWS CONTINUANCE BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a To-morrow.—(*The Marquess of Salisbury.*) (No. 208.)

INEBRIATES ACT (1898) AMENDMENT BILL.

Brought from the Commons. Read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a To-morrow; and Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered in order to its being dispensed with.—(*The Lord Belper.*) (No. 209.)

PUBLIC WORKS (LOANS) BILL.

Brought from the Commons. Read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a To-morrow.—(*The Marquess of Salisbury.*) (No. 210.)

TANCRED'S CHARITIES SCHEME CONFIRMATION BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a To-morrow.—(*The Lord Churchill.*) (No. 211.)

COMMONS AND OPEN SPACES BILL. [H.L.]

Commons Amendments considered (on motion), and agreed to.

House adjourned at half-past Seven of the clock, till To-morrow, a quarter past Four of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*Thursday, 3rd August 1899.**PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.***BEXHILL AND ROTHERFIELD RAILWAY BILL.**

Lords Amendment considered, and agreed to.

LONDON AND SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY BILL [Lords].**MANCHESTER CORPORATION TRAMWAYS BILL [Lords].****PAISLEY AND BARRHEAD DISTRICT RAILWAY BILL [Lords].**

Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

ROCHDALE CANAL BILL [Lords].

Read the third time, and passed, with an Amendment.

WOLVERHAMPTON CORPORATION BILL [Lords].**WORKINGTON CORPORATION BILL [Lords].**

Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

BIRMINGHAM, NORTH WARWICKSHIRE, AND STRATFORD-UPON-AVON RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered :

Amendments made.

Ordered, that Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Dr. Farquharson.*)

Bill read the third time accordingly, and passed with Amendments.

SOUTHPORT AND LYTHAM TRAMROAD BILL [Lords].

Ordered, that, in the case of the Southport and Lytham Tramroad Bill [Lords], as amended, Standing Orders 84, 214, 215, and 239 be suspended, and that the Bill be now taken into consideration provided amended prints shall have been previously deposited.—(*Dr. Farquharson.*)

Bill considered accordingly.

Ordered, that Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Dr. Farquharson.*)

Bill read the third time accordingly, and passed.

PRIVATE BILLS.

Ordered, that Standing Orders 220 and 246 relating to Private Bills be suspended for the remainder of the session.

That, as regards Private Bills already returned by the House of Lords with Amendments, such Amendments be now considered.

That, as regards Private Bills to be returned by the House of Lords with Amendments, such Amendments to be considered forthwith.

That, when it is intended to propose any Amendments thereto, a copy of such Amendments shall be deposited in the Private Bill Office, and notice given on the day on which the Bill shall have been returned from the Lords.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

BELFAST CORPORATION BILL.**CITY AND BRIXTON RAILWAY BILL.****GATESHEAD AND DISTRICT TRAMWAYS BILL.****LONDON, WALTHAMSTOW, AND EPPING FOREST RAILWAY BILL.****WEST METROPOLITAN RAILWAY BILL.**

Lords Amendments considered accordingly, and agreed to.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION (LONDON) BILL [Lords].

As amended, further considered.

*SIR MANCHERJEE BHOWNAGREE (Bethnal Green, N.E.): In proposing the Amendment which stands in my name, I wish to explain that the object I have in view is to extend the provision which the Home Secretary is inserting in this Order to all the previous Orders confirmed by Parliament. I fully admit that the Home Secretary has given his most

sympathetic consideration to the mischief which has been brought to his notice on account of the evasion by the London School Board of its statutory obligations with regard to the re-housing of the occupants of working class dwellings displaced by the acquisition of School Board sites. In my opinion the Home Secretary's provision does not go far enough. There were many such evasions before the year 1895—the limit chosen by the right hon. Gentleman—and it would be an act of gross injustice not to go back before that date. The Home Secretary and the School Board have admitted that the evasions have taken place, and I do not see why, in trying to remedy a mischief which has been deliberately and designedly committed, we should stop short of the full measure of justice which ought to be applied. The question of the re-housing of the working class population is one felt severely in the East End of London among the poorer population, for whose special benefit this provision was made by Parliament; yet the School Board, which is supposed in one department of life to serve the best interests of these classes, has deliberately and of set purpose, and not in ignorance, evaded its plain duty. I trust the Home Secretary will look on my Amendment as the logical outcome of the provision he has inserted in this Order, and that by accepting it he will apply a remedy to what is felt to be a crying evil in the East End of London.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, in Amendment inserted in Committee, in line 2, after the word 'Orders,' to insert the word 'previously.'"—(*Sir Manchester Bhowmaggree.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'previously' be there inserted."

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (Sir JOHN GORST, Cambridge University): There is no doubt that the evil to which the hon. Member refers does exist, and the intention of Parliament has been evaded. The duty of providing fresh dwellings when more than twenty houses have been acquired in any one year for the erection of a School Board has been evaded by taking less than twenty in a year. In order to meet that evasion, the Home Secretary has proposed

an Amendment extending the obligation to replace working-class dwellings to a period of five years; so that if more than twenty houses are taken in five years the replacement is obligatory. The hon. Member wishes to carry it still further, and to make it practically perpetual; but the opinion of the Secretary of State is, that it is not necessary to go beyond the period of five years, for persons displaced earlier than that would probably be lost in the crowd by that time. In fact, it would be carrying the remedy to an unreasonable extent. I hope my hon. friend will be satisfied with the Amendment introduced into this Order—an Amendment which I understand will be introduced henceforth into every Bill of this nature.

MR. FLOWER (Bradford, W.): The hon. Member who moved this Amendment seemed to think there will be no difficulty experienced by the School Board in giving effect to it. Upon that I join issue with him. He desires its operation should extend back for twenty-five years, and that would involve the London School Board instituting a search for many thousands of people amongst a population of an admittedly migratory character. Moreover, it would involve an expenditure of many thousands of pounds, and bearing in mind how heavy the London School Board rate already is, and remembering also, as a member of the board, that the projects and plans we have for the future do not afford much prospect of any early reduction, I would suggest to the hon. Member that, in trying to do an act of kindness and justice, he may at the same time be inflicting a severe punishment in another direction, by making an increased rate necessary. I think the Amendment of the Home Secretary goes quite far enough. I, for one, view with alarm any prospect of the School Board setting itself to work as a housing authority. The London County Council have done something in that direction, but their work has been marred by the high rents which they have been obliged to charge for the buildings they have erected. The School Board would have to face a like difficulty, and there would be a temptation to them to cramp the play-grounds, so as to reduce their obligations in the matter of re-housing. This evasion of the law has not been confined to the present School Board; it is a legacy from many previous boards, and I

trust the hon. Member will be satisfied with the punishment meted out to us by the Home Secretary.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): If the Home Secretary had seen his way to make this provision absolutely retrospective, I, for one, would have been very glad, as the more accommodation we can get for the dispossessed poor the better. But I think the right hon. Gentleman has gone as far as we could expect, and Ministers with large majorities at their backs will be disposed to refuse all concessions if they find that when they offer reasonable ones they are met in a hostile spirit.

LORD HUGH CECIL (Greenwich): I agree with the last speaker that my hon. friend would be well advised not to press this Amendment, in view of the sympathetic treatment the Government have given to the matter. At the same time, I hold that he has done well in calling public attention to the subject. It is almost incredible that a public body in the position of the London School Board should for a number of years continue to evade Acts of Parliament for the benefit of the working classes. We have to face the fact that this public body has broken the law, and is now putting forward the astonishing defence that it would cost them a great deal of money to undo the wrong. So much the worse for them and for the ratepayers, who have been so foolish as to entrust their educational interests to a body of that kind. The board has been fanatically set upon the erection of school after school, wholly regardless of the interests of the working classes and of voluntary schools; and, now they are asked to pay the bill, they complain that the demand is unreasonable. I think my hon. friend has done well to bring the matter before the House, and I hope the people of London, when the next School Board election comes round, will take effectual measures to prevent a recurrence of such conduct.

*SIR MANCHERJEE BHOWNAGREE: After what has been said on behalf of the Government, and being satisfied with the opportunity I have had of calling attention to the great mischief which has occurred in the past, so as to prevent its recurrence in the future, I beg leave to withdraw my Amendment.

Mr. Flower.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Bill to be read the third time Tomorrow.

LONDON WATER (WELSH RESERVOIRS AND WORKS) BILL.

Order [13th March] that the London Water (Welsh Reservoirs and Works) Bill be read a second time read, and discharged:—Bill withdrawn.—(*Dr. Farguharson.*)

PETITIONS.

POOR LAW AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1845.

Petitions for alteration of Law; from Castleton; Fodderty; and, Kennethmont; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

POLICE (METROPOLIS).

Copy presented,—of Report of the Commissioners of Police for the Metropolis for 1898 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

REFORMATORY AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS (GREAT BRITAIN).

Copy presented,—of Forty-second Report of the Inspector for 1898 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

INEBRIATES ACTS, 1879 AND 1888.

Copy presented,—of Report of Nineteenth Report of the Inspector of Retreats, for the year 1898 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PRISONS (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Copy presented,—of Report of the Commissioners of Prisons and the Directors of Convict Prisons for the year ended 31st March 1899 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE (ENGLAND, SCOTLAND AND IRELAND).

Return presented,—relative thereto [ordered 18th April; *Mr. Lough*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 317.)

IMPERIAL REVENUE (COLLECTION AND EXPENDITURE) (GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND).

Return presented,—relative thereto [ordered 18th April; *Mr. Lough*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 318.)

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS (REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE).

Return presented,—relative thereto [ordered 25th July; *Mr. Hanbury*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 319.)

POST OFFICE (REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE).

Return presented,—relative thereto [ordered 25th July; *Mr. Hanbury*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 320.)

TAXES AND IMPOSTS.

Return presented,—relative thereto [ordered 20th April; *Mr. Goddard*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 321.)

VAGRANT CHILDREN RELIEVED.

Return presented,—relative thereto [ordered 16th March; *Mr. Maddison*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 322.)

LONDON (EQUALISATION OF RATES) ACT, 1894 (ACCOUNTS UNDER SECTION 1 (7) OF THE ACT).

Return presented,—relative thereto [ordered 21st July; *Mr. T. W. Russell*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 323.]

COUNTY TREASURERS' FEE FUND (IRELAND).

Account presented,—for the year ended 25th March 1899 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY (MEDICAL DEPARTMENT).

Copy presented,—of Report for the year 1898, Volume XL. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).

Copy presented,—of Report No. 264 (Gambia, Annual Report for 1898) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).

Copy presented,—of Report No. 265 (St. Helena, Annual Report for 1898) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PAPERS LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

1. Adjournment Motions under Standing Order No. 17,—Return relative thereto [ordered 1st August; *Dr. Farquharson*]; to be printed. [No. 324.]
2. Closure of Debate (Standing Order No. 25),—Return relative thereto [ordered 1st August; *Dr. Farquharson*]; to be printed. [No. 325.]
3. Divisions of the House,—Return relative thereto [ordered 1st August; *Dr. Farquharson*]; to be printed.
4. Private Bills and Private Business,—Return relative thereto [ordered 1st August; *Dr. Farquharson*]; to be printed.
5. Public Bills,—Return relative thereto [ordered 1st August; *Dr. Farquharson*]; to be printed.
6. Public Petitions,—Return relative thereto [ordered 1st August; *Dr. Farquharson*]; to be printed.
7. Select Committees,—Return relative thereto [ordered 1st August; *Dr. Farquharson*]; to be printed.
8. Sittings of the House,—Return relative thereto [ordered 1st August; *Dr. Farquharson*]; to be printed.
9. Business of the House (Days Occupied by Government and by Private Members),—Return relative thereto [ordered 1st August; *Dr. Farquharson*]; to be printed. [No. 326.]

COUNTY COURTS (PLAINTS AND SITTINGS).

Address for "Returns from every County Court in England and Wales of the total number of Plaints, etc., entered in each Court from the 1st day of January to the 31st day of December, 1898, both days inclusive, distinguishing those not exceeding £20, those above £20 and not exceeding £50, and those by agreement over £50."

"And of the Sittings of the County Courts in England and Wales holden before the Judges of such Courts in the year 1898 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 385, of Session 1898)."—(*Mr. Jesse Collings.*)

TRAMWAYS (STREET AND ROAD).

Return ordered,—“of Street and Road Tramways authorised by Parliament, showing the amount of Capital authorised, paid up, and expended; the length of Tramway authorised, and the length open for the public conveyance of passengers, down to the 30th day of June, 1899; the gross Receipts, working Expenditure, and net Receipts; the number of Passengers conveyed and the number of miles run by Cars during the year ending the 30th day of June, 1899; together with the number of Horses, Engines, and Cars at that date (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 355, of Session 1898.”

—(Mr. Ritchie.)

Return presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 327.]

QUESTIONS.

TRAINING SHIP FOR HARWICH HARBOUR.

MR. ROUND (Essex, Harwich): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty if he can now state whether a training ship for boys of the Royal Navy is to be stationed in Harwich Harbour.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. GOSCHEN, St. George's, Hanover Square): A plan to that effect is taking shape.

DISCHARGES FROM THE ROYAL MARINES.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON (Glasgow, Bridgeton): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether his attention has been called to a statement of Mrs. Farquhar, of 83, Dalmarnock Road, Glasgow, to the effect that in May last, after correspondence with the Admiralty as to the steps to be taken to secure the discharge of her husband, John Farquhar, who on 1st May had enlisted in the Marines and was serving on board H.M.S. “Northumberland,” she sent £10 to the master-at-arms of that vessel, receipt of which was duly acknowledged, to procure his discharge; whether she has sent to the Admiralty documents in proof of her statement, but that, on the excuse that the £10 has been lost, her husband still remains undischarged; and whether he

will take steps to have the case promptly settled, either by discharging Farquhar or returning the £10, for which his wife, a very poor woman, having had to borrow it, is responsible.

MR. GOSCHEN: The first intimation received at the Admiralty with regard to the matter referred to in the question was by a letter received from Mrs. Farquhar on July 20th. A report as to the circumstances, which was at once called for from H.M.S. “Northumberland,” was received yesterday, August 2nd. It appears that the delay, as set out in the question, has been occasioned by the purchase money having been sent in Scotch notes, which were refused by the Accountant Officer of the ship and were subsequently handed to Farquhar, the husband whose discharge his wife was seeking. He states that he himself lost them while vainly endeavouring to get them changed into gold at the local banks. Under the special circumstances, though the necessary money has not been received by the Government, Farquhar's discharge will be sanctioned without any further payment.

ARMY ORDNANCE DEPARTMENT, PIMLICO.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether, seeing that it is contemplated that no Civil Servants of higher rank than Second Division clerks are to be employed in the Army Ordnance Department, Pimlico, it is to be understood that the superior duties now performed by the storekeeper and the staff officers, and the regulations and estimates work until recently in the hands of the principal clerk, will eventually be discharged by Ordnance officers; and, if not, by whom they will be discharged; whether steps are being taken to have the future Civil establishment in the Store and Factory fixed at the same time as the accounts are taken over by the Accountant-General; and by what date the whole re-organisation of the Clothing Department will be at length completed and the new clerical establishments settled.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): The matter is still under consideration.

WAR OFFICE ADMINISTRATION.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, S.E.): On behalf of the hon. Member for West Belfast I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether the attention of the Secretary of State has been called to the statement made in evidence before the War Office Re-Organisation Committee by the Lieutenant-General Commanding at Aldershot to the effect that he thought, and he believed he had sufficiently verified his opinion, that the whole system of reports, regulations, and warrants under which the Army now serves has grown up entirely for the benefit of the War Office clerks, and to find work for the War Office, rather than to provide control over the Army; whether during a period of ten years the officer referred to held a post of Quartermaster-General and Adjutant-General at the War Office, and whether during that period he made any official report respecting the office over which he presided to the same effect as the statement above referred to; and whether the facts are as stated by Sir Redvers Buller; and, if so, whether any, and what, steps have been taken to put an end to such a state of things.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Committee on Decentralisation reported to the Secretary of State, and he laid its Report, with the evidence, before Parliament. The sentence quoted formed part only of one reply in the course of a long examination; and an accurate knowledge of Sir Redvers Buller's views can best be gathered by reading the whole of his evidence. In reply to the second paragraph, Sir Redvers Buller did not make any report with respect to the branches of the War Office over which he presided; his views on the clerical staff of the whole office were before the Secretary of State in 1895, when certain changes were under consideration. In reply to the third paragraph, the question is one of opinion and not of fact.

RECRUITS' AGES.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he will state the extent to which the experiment to establish a system of verification of the ages of recruits for the Army was carried, and what means were employed; whether the general qualifications as to character, education, and re-

spectability of the recruits whose ages could not be verified could compare favourably with those of the recruits who had no difficulty in producing satisfactory proof of age; and whether the immediate discharge from the Army can always be procured of boys proved to be under seventeen years who are prompted thoughtlessly by the allurements of the recruiting agency to give false statements as to their ages, such discharge from the Army taking place without punishment being awarded them from either a civil or military court.

MR. WYNDHAM: Search was made in the registers at Somerset House, in Edinburgh, and in Dublin for the certificates concerning 18,000 recruits under the age of twenty according to the places of birth and dates given on attestation. Although a liberal margin was allowed for errors in date, 45 per cent. could not be traced at all, and 15 per cent. were very doubtful. The labour was very great and the result was not considered to be of sufficient value to justify its continuance. There is no record of the comparative characters of the men identified and those not identified. A boy proved to be under seventeen years of age is immediately discharged; but under Sections 33 and 99 of the Army Act he is liable to punishment for having made a false statement of age on attestation.

MR. PIRIE: Did this inquiry take place lately?

MR. WYNDHAM: Yes.

INDIAN GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS—IRON MANUFACTURE.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India if it is the practice of the Indian Government to treat Indian manufacturers of iron and of other products purchased by the Government on equal terms with British or Continental manufacturers as ordered by paragraph 28, of Resolution 185, January, 1883.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): In November, 1895, I instructed the Government of India to be careful to avoid giving any preference to either English or Indian goods, as such, and so far as I am aware they have acted, and are acting, accordingly.

ECCLESIASTICAL TITLES IN INDIA.

MR. H. D. GREENE (Shrewsbury) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether, having regard to the importance of Her Majesty's Indian Empire, and to the fact that certain bishops of the Church of England in the colonies have recently adopted and assumed the style of Archbishop, Her Majesty's Government will take steps to amend the statutes affecting the Church of England in the East Indies, so as really to confer on the Bishop of Calcutta, as statutory Metropolitan Bishop in India, the style and precedence of an Archbishop.

LORD G. HAMILTON : I am well aware of the nature of the position of the Bishop of Calcutta as Metropolitan of India, and the suggestion contained in the hon. Member's question is not new to me. But there are many important considerations involved, and it is impossible for me at present to give any undertaking on the subject.

MAJOR PARSONS, 7TH BENGAL CAVALRY.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) : On behalf of the hon. Member for South Donegal, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to the case of Major (then Lieutenant) J. H. Parsons, 7th Bengal Cavalry, who was appointed in July, 1884, to the Burma Commission as Supernumerary Assistant Commissioner, but was obliged to go home to England on sick leave in 1886 ; whether he is aware that in 1890 Major Parsons was offered an opportunity of returning to his post in Burma, which he declined to accept, whereupon his name disappeared from the list of Commissioners, but that in April, 1897, Major Parsons was replaced in the Burma Commission after an absence of eleven and a-half years, and in July, 1898, was appointed to the post of Deputy Commissioner, third grade, superseding all the officers in the fourth grade, who had given a continuous service to the Commission ; whether, seeing that the Secretary of State for India cancelled the orders of the Local Government of Burma, and reduced Major Parsons to the post of a Deputy Commissioner of the fourth grade, will he explain on what grounds the Burma Government has appointed that officer to officiate as

Deputy Commissioner, first grade ; and what steps will be taken to enforce the orders of the Secretary of State for India, granting redress to the officers who had been injured by being superseded in their promotion in favour of Major Parsons.

LORD G. HAMILTON : I have to refer the hon. Member to the answer which I gave on the 1st instant to the hon. Member for the Basingstoke Division, and which, I think, covers all the points in this question. As I then stated, the orders given by me appear to have been duly carried out, and the recent promotions of Major Parsons have not interfered and will not interfere with those of other members of the Burma Commission.

GUARANTEED RAILWAYS IN INDIA.

MR. SOUTTAR (Dumfriesshire) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he could state the dates at which, within the next two years, notice should be given to the several guaranteed or subsidised Indian railways for the termination or revision of their existing contracts or agreements with the Government of India or Secretary of State ; and whether due care would be taken in any revision or renewal of these agreements so to limit the new terms as to safeguard the interests of the Government and taxpayers of India.

LORD G. HAMILTON : Within the next two years notice of termination of contract may be given to one guaranteed Indian railway company, viz., the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company (on any day within six months after the 17th of August, 1899). The contract with the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway Company for the completion and working of the Lucknow-Bareilly State Railway may be terminated on the 31st of December, 1900, or on the 31st of December in any subsequent year, by giving not less than twelve months' previous notice. In any revision of contracts with Indian railway companies the interests of the Government and taxpayers of India will be duly safeguarded.

THE TRANSVAAL PETITIONS.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion) : I beg to ask the Secretary

of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the fact that, at the Bloemfontein Conference, President Kruger strongly disputed the genuineness of the petition from the Transvaal submitted to Her Majesty, and asserted that over 23,000 Uitlanders had sent him a counter petition, the proposed Joint Committee will be instructed to inquire to what extent the franchise is really desired by British Uitlanders, and how many would be willing to forfeit their British nationality in order to obtain it, and also to inquire whether the Uitlander movement in the Transvaal is, as alleged, to any and what extent due to instigation of capitalists and their agents.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): The inquiry will be confined to the details of the reforms required for giving immediate substantial representation to the Uitlanders. Full information is given as to the genuineness of the petition to the Queen on pages 184 and 224 of the Blue Book C. 9,345, and pages 46 and 60 and following pages of the Blue Book C. 9,404, as to the character of the counter petition on page 237 of C. 9,345 and page 22 of C. 9,404, and as to the nature of the Uitlander movement on pages 135, 163, and 207 of C. 9,345.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA ORDINANCES.

MR. HOGAN (Tipperary, Mid.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the monetary claims arising out of the disallowance of the Ordinance conferring certain concessions upon the British New Guinea Syndicate have yet been adjusted; and, if so, whether he can state the nature of the arrangement that has been arrived at.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The negotiations respecting the claims of the British New Guinea Syndicate have been carried on between the Syndicate and Governments of the three Colonies concerned through their Agents-Generals. I have not been informed that a settlement has been arrived at.

CONTEMPT OF COURT IN THE WEST INDIES.

MR. THOMAS B. CURRAN (Donegal, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, seeing that the Royal assent was given to The Barbadoes

Contempt of Court Act, 1891, under which all cases of contempt, except *in facie curiæ*, must be tried by a jury and a judge other than the one who may be aggrieved; and that, on the 19th May, 1898, Her Majesty, by Order in Council, assented to a similar measure passed in the Leeward Islands, he would instruct the Governors of the Windward Islands and the adjoining Crown Colonies under the control of the Colonial Office to pass a law on the same lines, so as to make legislation on the subject uniform in the West Indies.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I recognise the convenience of uniformity of legislation on the subject in the West Indian Colonies, and I will bring the matter under the consideration of the Governors of the Colonies referred to.

SIERRA LEONE.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been specially drawn to page 121 of the Blue Book on Sierra Leone, just issued, from which it appears that in one of the recent trials, viz., *Regina v. Caulker*, three witnesses swore to the prisoner having killed a Mr. Roberts with his own hand, whereas it appeared, on looking up another murder case which had been held by the Deputy Judge, that Roberts was killed by an entirely different person, and so the prisoner was fortunately acquitted. And, whether, having regard to the kind of evidence produced at these trials, he will cause inquiry to be made into the circumstances of the prisoners who were convicted, with a view to the extension to them in suitable cases of the clemency of the Crown.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Yes, Sir, my attention was called to the statement which appears on page 121 of the Blue Book to which the hon. Member's question refers. The evidence of natives requires very careful sifting, and the judge who tried the persons charged with murder, and who was especially selected for the purpose, exercised very great care. I see no reason to direct any general inquiry into the cases which have been tried, but if in any special case circumstances should be found to afford grounds for further inquiry, it will, of course, be made.

MR. PICKERSGILL : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, having regard to the fact that Sir F. Cardew, Governor of Sierra Leone, brought a very serious impeachment against the newspaper press and the community of that colony—viz., that of inciting the natives of the Protectorate to resist payment of the hut tax, and that Her Majesty's Special Commissioner, Sir David Chalmers, has reported that Sir F. Cardew has entirely failed to establish this charge against the people of the colony which he administers, will he consider the advisability of transferring Sir F. Cardew to some other sphere of employment.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN : The question of the effect of certain actions of individuals and of articles in the local press is a matter of opinion on which Sir D. Chalmers and Sir F. Cardew are not in full agreement; but even if Sir F. Cardew has, as I hope is the case, attached undue importance to these matters, it is not, in my opinion, a reason for putting a slight on a distinguished and zealous officer who has administered the government of the colony in most difficult and trying circumstances.

MR. PICKERSGILL : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether Sir David Chalmers recommended that the Insurgents' Temporary Detention Ordinance, 1898 (Sierra Leone), should be immediately repealed; and whether Commander Sir F. Cardew has admitted that this Ordinance could safely be repealed; and, if so, will he state why this course has not been taken.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN : The facts are as stated. No action has been taken under the Ordinance for some time past, and instructions will now be given for its repeal.

MR. PICKERSGILL : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether Bai Bureh has been deported to Accra; and, having regard to the fact that Commander Sir F. Cardew reported that Bai Bureh had fought us squarely and well, and recommended that he should be allowed to return to his people, will he state upon what grounds this recommendation has not been adopted.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN : I have not lost sight of the recommendation referred to; but, upon consulting the local authorities and Sir F. Cardew as to the date at which Bai Bureh should be sent back, I came reluctantly to the conclusion that it would not be advisable to allow him to return at present, and that in the meantime it would be better for Bai Bureh that he should be removed to Accra, where more liberty could be given him than in Freetown.

BRITISH COMMERCIAL ATTACHÉS ABROAD.

SIR STAFFORD NORTHCOTE (Exeter) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if any decision has been arrived at by Her Majesty's Government with respect to the increase in the number of British Commercial Attachés abroad.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford) : Her Majesty's Government, with a view to furthering British trading interests, have decided to appoint commercial agents in certain countries. Appointments will shortly be made in Russia, Switzerland, China and America. These agents will not have diplomatic rank, but will visit various commercial centres, and will be available for special consultation by British firms in respect of various industries by payment of a moderate fee, such fees going to the Exchequer and not to the commercial agent, who will be paid by salary. The appointments will be made experimentally for two or three years.

FOREIGN SERVICE MESSENGERS.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) : I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Secretary of State is acting on the recommendations, in respect to Foreign Service messengers, contained in paragraph 20 of the final Report of the Ridley Commission, other than the recommendations as to salary and age which he has accepted.

*MR. BRODRICK : The Secretary of State in filling up the appointment of Queen's Messenger is ready as a general rule to give the preference to gentlemen who have served in the Army or Navy,

though not necessarily on half-pay or in receipt of pension, but he does not hold that the recommendations of the Commission deprive him of the power of appointing suitable civilians. The Secretary of State will also take care that the candidates selected possess a colloquial knowledge of French, are able to ride, to keep simple accounts, and are pronounced medically fit. The office of Queen's Messenger is included in Schedule B of the Order in Council of June 4th, 1870, and is therefore not one for which an examination is obligatory.

RED SEA LIGHTS.

SIR THOMAS SUTHERLAND (Greenock): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade when it may be expected that the lighthouses which the Porte is said to have agreed to construct in the southern portion of the Red Sea will be commenced, and if any arrangement has been entered into or is pending for authorising the collection of dues in respect of such lights; and whether the annual surplus of the Egyptian lights revenue, amounting to £45,000, is considered available for this purpose, or if such surplus can only be applied to the reduction of dues on Egyptian lights in conformity with the Convention between Great Britain and Egypt; in the latter case when a reduction may be looked for.

*MR. BRODRICK: As regards the first paragraph of this question there is nothing at present to be added to the answer given to the question of the right hon. Member for the North-east Division of Manchester on the 27th of July ultimo. The sum available for the construction of the proposed lighthouses in the Red Sea is the accumulated amount, about £80,000 sterling, to which reference was made in reply to my hon. friend's question of July 29th. I would, however, remind him that the dues were reduced by 30 per cent. on September 1st, 1897, and the revenue derived from them has fallen from £E110,000 in 1896 to £E87,000 in 1898. The engagement on the part of the Egyptian Government to reduce the Egyptian light dues by £E40,000, to which the hon. Member alludes, is contingent on the application of the customs tariff to all the Powers. This contingency has not yet arisen.

BRITISH CLAIMS FOR LOSSES IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

MR. DILLON: On behalf of the hon. Member for South Donegal, I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether Her Majesty's Government have received a petition from the British merchants in Constantinople, dated 9th May, 1898, praying for an early settlement of their claims against the Turkish Government for losses sustained by them in August, 1896, during the pillage of Pera, Galata, Stamboul, and Hasskein by a mob; whether Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Sublime Porte has reported that the mob in question was organised by and worked under the orders of Turkish officials whose names are known to the Ambassador; whether the Secretary of State is aware that two British firms at Constantinople have been compelled to suspend payment in consequence of the magnitude of their losses on that occasion, and that other firms are in financial difficulties from the same cause; and whether, seeing that no attention has been paid by the Ottoman Government to the *note verbale*, addressed to it by Sir Philip Currie on 24th March, 1898, Her Majesty's Government will now consider the advisability of liquidating the claims of the petitioners and recovering the sum paid from the Ottoman Government from the profits which will accrue by the conversion of the Cyprus Tribute into Two and a-half Per Cent. Consolidated Stock.

*MR. BRODRICK: The petition has been received. Her Majesty's Ambassador has not made the Report stated, but Her Majesty's Government consider that there are grounds for holding the Turkish Government liable to make compensation in certain cases. Her Majesty's Government are aware that the losses suffered on the occasion have caused serious embarrassment to several of the sufferers. They will continue to press the claim, but no arrangement has yet been made of the nature suggested in regard to the surplus revenue of Cyprus, and, consequently, no assurance can be given on the subject.

HER MAJESTY'S CONSUL AT SMYRNA.

MR. DILLON: On behalf of the hon. Member for South Donegal, I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the attention of the

Secretary of State has been called to the unsatisfactory relations which for some time have existed between Mr. H. C. Cumberbatch, Her Majesty's Consul at Smyrna, and the members of the British community in that city; whether he is aware that Mr. Cumberbatch is Chairman of the Committee of the Seamen's Hospital, which has made grave charges against the personal character of the British medical officer of that city; can he state whether these charges have been disproved or withdrawn; and whether Mr. Cumberbatch still performs consular duties at Smyrna, and enjoys the confidence of Her Majesty's Government.

*MR. BRODRICK: The Secretary of State is not aware that unsatisfactory relations exist between Her Majesty's Consul at Smyrna and the members of the British community there. Charges against the personal character of the surgeon of the Seamen's Hospital were brought before the Hospital Committee, of which the Consul is the ex-officio chairman. The Judge of the Supreme Court at Constantinople eventually investigated these charges, and pronounced them to have been without any foundation. Mr. Cumberbatch still performs consular duties at Smyrna, and enjoys the confidence of Her Majesty's Government.

UNITED STATES NAVIGATION LAWS.

MR. RUNCIMAN (Oldham): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been called to Department Circular No. 17, dated 8th February, 1899, promulgated by the Treasury Department of the Bureau of Navigation at Washington, United States of America, reciting an amendment in the Federal Laws of 1884, by an Act approved 21st December, 1898; whether, under the amendment referred to, it becomes unlawful to pay any seaman wages in advance of the time when he has actually earned the same; also, whether any shipmaster paying such an advance to seamen becomes liable to heavy fine and six months' imprisonment; whether any treaty exists between Great Britain and the United States exempting our national shipping from the operation of American domestic legislation, which is in conflict with British law, or otherwise; and whether Her Majesty's Government are prepared to

negotiate with the United States for the protection of British shipowners and seamen in regard to advances, which are legal in this country, and especially against the exaction of what is called "blood money" by crimps in lieu of such advances.

*MR. BRODRICK: My attention has been called to the Circular issued by the Treasury Department of the Bureau of Navigation at Washington. The questions affecting British shipping which arise in connection with the United States law referred to are receiving the careful consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

CITY CHAMBERLAIN'S JURISDICTION OVER APPRENTICES.

MR. HARWOOD: On behalf of the hon. Member for Pontefract, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that recently the City Chamberlain sentenced two boys, serving as apprentices to Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, to fourteen days' solitary confinement at Bridewell for trifling offences connected with the breaking of their indentures; whether he will state to the House by virtue of what authority the City Chamberlain has jurisdiction in such matters, and whether the procedure followed is similar to the procedure of other courts; and whether he will make inquiries with a view to ascertaining if such jurisdiction and procedure is applicable to existing conditions.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Sir M. WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): The City Chamberlain has an ancient customary jurisdiction in connection with the Mayor's Court to adjudicate on disputes between masters and apprentices, and commits apprentices to the Bridewell for misconduct in accordance with a scheme approved by the Master of the Rolls (under 52, George III. c. 101, and the Charitable Trusts Acts). I am not aware of any reason for dissenting from the view expressed by my predecessors that the Chamberlain's Court is distinguished for its impartial administration and care of the rights of apprentices. I may add that the Bridewell is not a prison coming within the provisions of the Prison Act, nor is it in any way under the inspection or control of the Home Office.

MAINTENANCE IN INDUSTRIAL AND REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.

MR. J. G. TALBOT (Oxford University): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to paragraph 19 of the 4th Report of the Committee on Public Accounts; and whether, pending the future legislation therein referred to, he proposes to take any measures to enforce the better collection of parental contributions towards the maintenance of children detained in reformatory and industrial schools.

***SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY**: A Bill containing provisions relating to the parental contributions referred to was introduced into and passed the House of Lords this session. I am sorry that it was impossible for any further progress to be made with it, but I may say that the inspector and his agents are instructed to use every effort to keep up and improve the present standard of collection; and that, even with the law as it stands, the increased energy devoted to this matter has not been without success.

LANCASHIRE SEA FISHERIES COMMITTEE.

MR. HARWOOD: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will consider, before granting further powers to the Lancashire Sea Fisheries Committee, the cost already incurred, and the loss suffered by the fishermen.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. LONG, Liverpool, West Derby) (for Mr. Ritchie): The only application from this Committee for further powers at present before the Board of Trade is one for sanction to a bye-law for limiting the kind of nets or instruments to be used in fishing for shrimps or prawns in a certain part of the Mersey estuary. A public local inquiry will be held in regard to this, and any representations that fishermen or others interested may make to the inspector will receive the careful consideration of the Board of Trade. As regards any applications that may hereafter be made I can only say that due regard will be had to the interests of all those who may be affected by them.

ACCOMMODATION FOR LASCAR SEAMEN.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON (Middlesbrough): I beg to ask the President of

the Board of Trade whether he is now in a position to state if the 210th Section of the Merchant Shipping Act, which deals with the accommodation of seamen on board ship, applies to Lascar and other native seamen in the same manner as it applies to seamen engaged on board British vessels registered in ports of the United Kingdom; and if he is now in the position to give the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown in accordance with the promise made some months ago.

MR. LONG (for Mr. RITCHIE): Yes, Sir. The Board of Trade are now in possession of the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown with regard to the point to which the hon. Member refers. The opinion is to the effect that the Board have acted properly in declining to allow any deduction from tonnage in respect of Lascar crew space which is not in accordance with the requirements of Section 210 of the Merchant Shipping Act; further, that the question whether proceedings should be taken to enforce these requirements is one for the consideration of the Board of Trade under all the circumstances of the case, among which are the provisions of Section 25 of the Imperial Act of George IV., 4 c. 80 and the conflicting provisions of the Indian Merchant Shipping Acts. At the moment, I can only say that the matter in all its bearings shall receive very careful consideration, and that I have already placed myself in communication with the India Office with a view of securing, if possible, an assimilation of the Indian to the Imperial law on the subject.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON: May I call attention to the fact that the right hon. Gentleman has not answered my question? I want to know whether the Law Officers of the Crown advise that the company are breaking the law in not providing for Lascars the same accommodation as the British seamen.

MR. LONG: Obviously I cannot give any further answer in the unavoidable absence of my right hon. friend.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON: I have been promised an answer to this question for over four months. I shall take an early opportunity to call attention to the matter unless I soon get one.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT— BREWERS' CASKS.

MR. YOXALL (Nottinghamshire, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will explain to the House upon what statutory or legal authority, and under what case decided in a competent court of law, the Board of Trade issued their letter to the Warwickshire County Council dated 26th January, 1895, marked ^{H.}_{T.S.} 86, stating that brewers' casks in use which did not bear any permanent representation upon the cask itself, by way of marking or otherwise of its capacity or of the measure of its contents, were to be considered as exempt from obligation to the Statute and the operations of The Weights and Measures Act, 1878, under Section 22.

MR. LONG (for Mr. RITCHIE): In December, 1894, the Warwickshire County Council asked for the "views" of the Board of Trade upon the subject, and in January, 1895, the Board wrote the letter referred to in the question upon the advice of their solicitor. I do not admit that the hon. Gentleman's question gives an accurate *resumé* of that letter.

LIGHT DUES.

MR. NICOL (Argyllshire): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if his attention has been called to the fact that light dues have been levied against vessels engaged in inland navigation and in areas not lighted at the expense of the General Lighthouse Fund; and, if so, whether he will make such alterations as may be necessary to relieve these vessels from this tax.

MR. LONG (for Mr. RITCHIE): The question whether light dues should be levied on vessels exclusively engaged in areas not lighted at the expense of the General Lighthouse Fund has been brought to my notice. I am advised that such vessels are not exempt under the Act, and can only be exempted by Order in Council. This claim to exemption is only one of several which have arisen since the passing of the Act, and I propose that they shall all be very carefully considered as soon as we have a little more experience of the operation of the Act.

FRASERBURGH LIGHT RAILWAY.

MR. BUCHANAN (Aberdeenshire, E.): I beg to ask the President of the

Board of Trade whether he can now state when the Order for the Light Railway from Fraserburgh to St. Courts will be issued.

MR. LONG (for Mr. RITCHIE): The Board of Trade understand from the promoters that they will apply for confirmation of the Order as soon as they have settled with the Treasury the terms of the agreement for an advance of money from the State.

ELECTRIC TRAMCAR ACCIDENT IN DUBLIN.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that three passengers on an electric tramcar in Dublin, on Sunday last, were injured by the breaking of the electric wires, which was caused by a passenger pulling the trolley rope in mistake for the bell rope to stop the car; whether he is aware that Mr. Mahoney, the magistrate before whom a police charge was brought arising out of the accident, censured the tramway company for exposing the public using the trams to the danger of pulling the trolley rope by mistake for a bell rope, and also censured the Board of Trade for having sanctioned such a dangerous arrangement; and whether he will cause a departmental inquiry into this matter, and see that the trolley rope is so protected that it cannot be interfered with except by the officer in charge of the car, and that proper arrangements for stopping the cars are placed on the top as well as within them.

MR. LONG (for Mr. RITCHIE): The Board of Trade have entered into communication with the company with reference to this matter. When their reply is received I will decide whether an expert inquiry will be useful. In the meantime I can express no opinion on the subject.

HUDDERSFIELD SWINE FEVER REGULATIONS.

MR. CAREW (Dublin, College Green): On behalf of the hon. Member for the St. Patrick Division of Dublin, I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he is aware that the local authority for the county borough of Huddersfield have made a regulation that after the 26th July, 1899, no swine

shall be moved into the county borough of Huddersfield from Ireland; and whether he will endeavour to have this regulation rescinded.

MR. LONG: I have seen the regulation to which the hon. Member refers. It is made under similar circumstances to those which led to the making of the West Riding regulation with regard to which the hon. Member questioned me on Tuesday, and the answer I then gave is equally applicable on the present occasion.

TITHE RENT-CHARGE (RATES) BILL.

MR. MADDISON (Sheffield, Brightside): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture if he will state the amount of the sum deducted in each case from the amount payable to Kent, Sussex, Brighton, Hastings, Middlesex, Hertfordshire, and the Isle of Wight out of the Local Taxation Grant, to provide the £87,000 taken from the grant under the Tithe Rent-Charge (Rates) Bill.

*MR. LONG: The share of the counties and county boroughs named in a sum of £87,000, distributed in the proportion of what are known as the "discontinued grants," would amount in the case of Kent to £2,636, East Sussex £868, West Sussex £404, Brighton £307, Hastings £107, Middlesex £2,445, Herts £753, and the Isle of Wight £276.

MR. HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture if he will state the amount of the sum deducted in each case from the amount payable to the counties of Bucks and Berks, and the county boroughs of Reading, West Ham, and Bournemouth, out of the local taxation grant to provide the £87,000 taken from the grant under Tithe Rent-Charge (Rates) Bill.

*MR. LONG: The shares of the counties and of the first two county boroughs named, in a sum of £87,000, distributed in the proportion of what are known as the "discontinued grants," would be £630, £619, £139, and £551, respectively. The figures for the newly created county borough of Bournemouth are not yet available.

RABIES AND THE MUZZLING ORDER.

MR. WHITMORE (Chelsea): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agri-

culture what progress has been made with the extirpation of rabies in England since his last statement; and whether he can now say when it will be practicable and expedient to revoke the muzzling orders which are still in force.

*MR. LONG: Perhaps I may be allowed to give the number of cases of rabies known to have occurred in Great Britain since 1896, the year prior to the commencement of our operations against the disease. In that year 436 cases were confirmed; in 1897, 151 cases; in 1898, 17 cases; and during the present year, so far as it has gone, only one case has been confirmed. With regard to the revocation of the muzzling orders, we have now made arrangements for obtaining the same security against the introduction of the disease from Ireland as exists in the case of foreign countries, and as soon as these arrangements are in effective operation I hope to be in a position to withdraw the Orders from the Midland and West Riding areas, to be followed at no distant date by the revocation of those in force in Lancashire and the metropolitan area, if no further cases occur.

TUBERCULOSIS.

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he now proposes to take any steps to give effect to the recommendations of the Commission on tuberculosis as regards what the Commission held to be the most important part of the inquiry, the elimination of the disease by the provision of guaranteed tuberculin, and the services of qualified veterinary surgeons gratuitously or otherwise; and whether, in any case, the Board of Agriculture will prepare and distribute a clear and concise statement of the method of elimination recommended by the Commission, and of the results of the adoption of this method in Denmark and other countries, and on certain estates in the United Kingdom.

*MR. LONG: Since the hon. Member last called my attention to this matter, nothing has occurred which would suggest that there is any general desire on the part of agriculturists that the Government should gratuitously provide tuberculin and the services of a veterinary surgeon for the purpose of enabling stock owners to test their animals for tuber-

culosis, and in these circumstances I could not fairly ask the Treasury to supply funds for the purpose. With regard to the issue of literature on the subject, I may remind the hon. Member that the Royal Agricultural Society recently gave extensive circulation to a very concise and practical leaflet, but I propose during the recess to bring up to date our information as to the methods of dealing with the disease, and the results obtained in Denmark and other countries, so as to enable me to determine whether we can usefully supplement the particulars already in the possession of agriculturists on the subject.

RATING OF MACHINERY.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to a communication, addressed to his Department by the Sunderland Board of Guardians, calling attention to the fact that there are upwards of 300 unions in England and Wales in which machinery included in the various hereditaments is not rated, thus reducing the amount received from Imperial and other taxation; and what steps, if any, he intends to take in the matter.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (MR. CHAPLIN, Lincolnshire, Sleaford): I have seen the communication referred to in the question; but the matter is not one with respect to which the Local Government Board have any authority to interfere. If a person is aggrieved on the ground that a particular hereditament is assessed too low, because the value of machinery which ought to be included in the assessment is not included, he can object to the valuation list before the Assessment Committee, and if he does not obtain relief he can appeal against the rate.

RATES ON RIFLE RANGES.

MR. CHANNING: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he can state the number of instances in which Assessment Committees have allowed rifle ranges to be exempted from local rates; and whether he will make any representation, by circular or otherwise, to the local rating authorities in cases where this exemption has not been granted.

MR. CHAPLIN: The Local Government Board have no information on the subject referred to in the question, nor have they any authority to intervene with regard to it.

POISONOUS TINNED FOODS.

MR. CHANNING: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he has considered the circumstances disclosed at a recent inquest as to deaths at a London hotel, and other instances in the past few years of alleged danger to life from improperly prepared or packed tinned meats, fruits, vegetables, and other articles of food; what precautions are now taken in the way of inspection, or otherwise, to check these risks, both as regards imported and home-produced tinned articles of food; and whether further steps will be taken in the interests of public health.

MR. CHAPLIN: The Local Government Board have from time to time made investigation into the circumstances of injury to health and danger to life by reason of the consumption of various articles of food, including cases of poisoning by tinned meats and other articles. The method of investigation in these cases is now well known, and it would appear that in the case to which the hon. Member refers the inquest has been adjourned in order that further analysis may be made. Power is given by the general law for the inspection and examination of articles of food deposited for the purpose of sale, or preparation for sale, and intended for the food of man, and it does not appear that further steps than those being adopted in the special case referred to, or than those applicable to the subject generally, are required.

MOTOR CARS.

MR. TRITTON (Lambeth, Norwood): On behalf of the hon. Member for the Peckham Division of Camberwell, I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the numerous accidents that have lately been caused by motor cars; and whether he will take steps to compel all drivers of motor cars to stop until horses and carriages have passed when requested to do so by the persons in charge of them.

MR. CHAPLIN: No representations have been made to me as to numerous

accidents caused by motor cars, and ample powers are given already under regulations made by the Local Government Board (Article IV., sub-section 8, of the Light Locomotives on Highways Order, 1896) to give effect to the object of the hon. Member. The article provides that every person shall, on the request of any police constable or of any person having charge of a restive horse, or on such constable or person putting up his hand as a signal for that purpose, cause the light locomotive to stop and to remain stationary so long as may be reasonably necessary.

EAST CENTRAL SORTERS' HOLIDAYS.

MR. STEADMAN (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether he is aware that Sorters White, Eastop, Woodbridge, Nicholls, North, Dyer, Davidson, and Kennedy, attached to the east central section General Post Office, have not received twenty-one days' annual leave although they have completed five years' service; and whether they are entitled to this period of leave under the Tweedmouth scheme, seeing that two sorters attached to the east central section of exactly identical service with the first four mentioned have received it, and that with the exception of these two all the sorters granted leave in October, which carries with it a twenty-one days' leave without question, are juniors to the officers mentioned.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): The eight sorters referred to had not completed five years' service when the period arrived which they had selected for annual leave. As regards the latter part of the question the hon. Member appears to be under a misapprehension. Leave in October does not carry with it "a twenty-one days' leave without question"; and no officer completing five years' service (say) in November would be granted twenty-one days' leave in October.

FIXED WAGES FOR RURAL POSTMEN.

MR. STEADMAN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, if he will consider the case of Thomas Cooper,

rural postman of Peasedown St. John, near Bath, who, notwithstanding the announced policy of abolishing the system of fixed wages, is still kept on the fixed scale of 16s. weekly, whereas a second rural postman at the same office is on scale and is receiving 19s. weekly, although he does an hour less duty daily.

MR. HANBURY: The hon. Member is under a misapprehension in supposing that a policy of abolishing fixed wages for established rural postman has been adopted. Such is not the case, inasmuch as fixed wages are paid to rural postmen working from many of the smaller post offices. Peasedown St. John is one of those offices, and Thomas Cooper is rightly paid fixed wages of 16s. a week. The other rural postman at the same office is on an obsolete scale rising to 19s. a week, for which fixed wages of 16s. will be substituted on a vacancy.

FINTONA MAILS.

MR. DILLON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, will he explain why the mails are not delivered in Fintona, County Tyrone, on Sunday mornings before 10 a.m., although they are despatched from Omagh, six miles distant, at 6 a.m.; and whether he is aware that the Great Northern train for Bundoran leaves Fintona on Sundays at 9.10, and that great inconvenience is caused to many inhabitants of Fintona by not receiving their letters before the departure of that train.

MR. HANBURY: As stated in answer to the hon. Member's question of the 19th June, the mails are due at Fintona on Sundays about 9 a.m., and the delivery commences at 9.15. There being no early morning train to Fintona on Sundays, the mails have to be forwarded by road from Omagh. They are sent by the mounted postman leaving Omagh at 6 a.m., and reaching Derrabard, about 2½ miles from Fintona, at 8.10 a.m. From Derrabard the mails are conveyed by a foot messenger to Fintona. The train leaving Fintona at 9.10 a.m. on Sundays only runs during the summer, and few passengers go by it. No great or widespread inconvenience is therefore caused through the letters not being delivered on Sundays before the departure of this train.

MR. DILLON: Is it not the fact that Omagh is only six miles from Fintona? Can the right hon. Gentleman explain why it takes over three hours to convey the mails that distance?

MR. HANBURY: I think the distance is nearer eight miles. Letters have to be delivered on the road, and that, I think, sufficiently accounts for the delay.

RURAL DELIVERIES IN COUNTY MONAGHAN.

MR. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, has anything been done to redress the balance of rural deliveries in the district of Carrickroe, County Monaghan, where great dissatisfaction prevails with the system which provides for one and the same townland a four-day delivery, in certain parts, while in other parts providing for only a two-day delivery; and, whether, if this system cannot be improved, he will revert to the old methods of delivery.

MR. HANBURY: The correspondence for the district in question is very small, and the service which has been granted to each part is of the greatest frequency that the circumstances at present permit. But fresh returns of the correspondence shall before long be taken, and if it is found that a more frequent service can be given, arrangements shall be made accordingly. If the present system cannot be improved, any of the residents who desire it can, as formerly, have their letters left at the Carrickroe Post Office to be called for.

CLOUGHAN POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether, seeing that the sub-post office at Cloughan, near Mullingar, has been abolished since last May, it is intended to re-establish the office; whether he is aware that the people of the district are greatly inconvenienced by its discontinuance, as their only means at present of purchasing stamps is to meet the letter carrier at a specified time and place on the public roadway; and whether steps will be at once taken to establish the office once more at Cloughan, where it is understood there is more than one

properly qualified person ready to undertake the duties of the position of sub-postmaster.

MR. HANBURY: It is not intended to re-establish the sub-post office at Cloughan, near Mullingar. A house-to-house delivery has been afforded throughout the district, and an office is no longer needed as a place of call for letters. The Postmaster-General is not aware that the residents are greatly inconvenienced by the closing of the office. The sale of stamps at the Cloughan office was small, and the supply carried by the postman is believed to suffice for the ordinary wants of the neighbourhood. The Postmaster-General sees no reason for establishing an office once more at Cloughan.

CROMWELL'S STATUE.

MR. BROOKFIELD (Sussex, Rye): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether he can state the precise process or arrangement by which it has been decided to erect a statue to Oliver Cromwell within the grounds of Westminster Palace, in addition to the bust of Cromwell already placed near the foot of the grand staircase leading to the Committee Rooms; whether any sanction has ever been given by Parliament for the erection of either of these two memorials; and whether the present House of Commons has had or will have any opportunity of expressing its opinion in the matter.

*MR. WILLIAM JOHNSTON (Belfast, S.): May I ask the right hon. Gentleman if he will also favourably consider the request in the third paragraph of the question, in order that the electors of this country may have an opportunity of taking note of those who are engaged in this idiotic opposition to honouring the memory of England's greatest ruler?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is not in order in applying the language he has used to a question which appears on the Paper in the name of another hon. Member.

*MR. WILLIAM JOHNSTON: I did not apply it to the hon. Member, but to the opposition. I will be glad to exchange it for any Parliamentary equivalent.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): I have already stated on several occasions that the offer of a statue of Oliver Cromwell was made to, and accepted by, the late Government, and a site for its erection chosen by my predecessor at the Office of Works. The Government on their accession to office in 1895 were asked whether they would adhere to the action of their predecessors, and they agreed to do so. The bust of Oliver Cromwell, which is admitted to be a very fine work of art, was presented to, and accepted by, the First Lord of the Treasury in the name of the House. It has not been customary, nor is it necessary, to obtain the formal sanction of the House to gifts of this character.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet): Has my right hon. friend had his attention called to the fact that there is a far more suitable site in Marylebone Road, in the neighbourhood of Baker Street, where there is a chamber specially reserved for malefactors?

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): Is the right hon. Gentleman in a position to give us the name of the generous donor?

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: No; I am not.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Is he ashamed of it?

EMBO FISHERMAN'S FINES.

MR. McLEOD (Sutherlandshire): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, whether his attention has been called to the case of John Cumming, fisherman, Embo, who on 28th June last was sentenced at Tain to pay a fine of £5, which is the maximum which any police or summary court in Scotland can impose in the very worst case in which the option of a fine is allowed; whether he is aware that, prior to paying the fine, Cumming was compelled to pay a sum of £3 10s. for alleged damage to the cell in which he was confined without any citation being served upon him, or an independent valuation made; and, whether, as Cumming was fined the maximum penalty, the authorities will repay the £3 10s.

THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): The

statement contained in the first paragraph of the hon. Member's question is not quite correct, as the maximum fine under the Burgh Police Act, 1892, is £10. I am informed by the Procurator-Fiscal that John Cumming was tried on the 29th ultimo, and was represented by an agent. The evidence fully supported the charges of serious assaults found proved, and the magistrates gave the accused the option of paying a fine out of compassion, and in respect of his calling as a fisherman, and his statement that he was robbed in the train of his earnings. The Procurator-Fiscal also informs me that the accused was very violent in the police cells, and that the amount acquiesced in and paid for by him for smashing the furniture will not, according to contract prices, now submitted, be sufficient to cover the loss. This matter rests with the county authorities, and I can give no assurance as to repayment.

MR. McLEOD: Will the Lord Advocate have an independent valuation made of the damage?

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I believe the valuation made was accurate.

SCHOOL BOARD REGISTERS.

MR. MOSS (Denbighshire, N.): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education, if his attention has been called to the working of the present arrangements for compiling the list of voters for School Board elections in parishes outside the metropolis, and outside boroughs, under Section 29 of the Education Act, 1870 (33 and 34 Vic., c. 75, s. 29), and under the second schedule of the Act of 1873 (36 and 37 Vic., c. 86, Schedule 2); and whether he will consider the advisability of taking the necessary steps for making the register of parochial electors also the register for the purposes of School Board elections.

SIR J. GORST: My attention has been called to the matter by the question. The suggestion of the hon. Member cannot be carried out without legislation, which it is impossible at this period of the session to contemplate.

COVENT GARDEN THEATRE FUND.

MR. HOGAN: I beg to ask Mr. Solicitor-General, whether the scheme of distribution in connection with the Covent

Garden Theatre Fund, recently promised by Mr. Attorney-General, will be presented before the close of the session.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir R. FINLAY, Inverness Burghs) : After careful consideration a scheme was formulated under the direction of the Attorney-General in May last. It would in all probability have already received the sanction of the court, but for unexpected opposition raised by the defendants in the suit. The matter stands in the judge's list for next Monday.

IRISH ROAD CONTRACTORS.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.) : I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland, whether his attention has been called to the position of road contractors in Ireland in connection with the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898 ; and whether a contractor for the maintenance and repair of county roads, as holding a place of profit under the council, is disqualified from holding the position of collector of poor rate ; and, if so, will the attention of the Local Government Board be directed to the position of these contractors.

THE ATTORNEY - GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.) : The answer to the first paragraph is in the affirmative. I must ask the hon. Member to give a concrete case, as the answer will in some degree depend on the terms of the scheme under which the collector has been re-employed. The attention of the Local Government Bill is being directed to the matter, as there is some doubt whether it is provided for by this Order of the 3rd of July last.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES (ANIMALS) ACT IN IRELAND.

MR. CAREW : I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the business of guardians as a local authority under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, 1894, which was transferred to the County Council by the Local Government (Ireland) Act, has, by an Order of the Local Government Board of the 19th July, 1899, been retransferred to the guardians as District Council ; and whether the Local Government Board has power to make an Order overruling an Act of Parliament ; and, if so, whether the rights of clerks of unions for loss of office as existing officers are preserved.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central) : The reply to the first paragraph is in the negative. The Board's Order of the 19th July does not refer to the business of the guardians under the Diseases of Animals Act, 1894, which was transferred to the County Council by Section 6 (b) of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898 ; but it empowers urban and rural district councils to appoint inspectors of dairies, milkshops, and cowsheds in accordance with the provisions of Section 9 of the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, 1896. The rights of clerks of unions to compensation for loss of office are not interfered with by the Local Government Board's Order above referred to.

MILK ADULTERATION IN IRELAND.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.) : I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether his attention has been called to the nominal penalties recently imposed in cases of milk adulteration at a petty sessions in County Cork ; and whether it will be possible for similar penalties to be imposed, in like cases, under the Sale of Food and Drugs Bill of the present session.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR : At the request of my right hon. friend I will reply to this question. The answer to the first paragraph is in the affirmative. The Bill referred to in the second paragraph contains special provisions prescribing penalties for offences committed under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, the penalties in most cases being maximum sums which may be abated in the discretion of the magistrates.

CAPTAIN DONELAN : Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that in one of the cases referred to, in which the milk was deficient in 30 per cent. of fat, the merely nominal fine of 5s. was imposed ? Would it be possible for a similar type of penalty to be imposed in like cases under the Bill passed during the present session ?

MR. G. W. BALFOUR : I believe so.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION VALUERS.

MR. J. O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.) : On behalf of the hon. Member for North Meath, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether

valuers in the Land Purchase Department of the Irish Land Commission are permitted to make private valuations or not ; whether he is aware that on the Garnett estate, in the Land Judge's Court, a Mr. Thomas Roberts, one of the valuers of the Irish Land Commission Court, Purchase Department, made private valuations for the solicitors having carriage of sale, Messrs. Lonfield and Company, which caused the proposed arrangements to purchase by the tenants to fall through ; and whether this gentleman, being a small incumbrancer on the property, was permitted to do so by the Land Commission ; whether this Mr. Roberts, who is considerably over sixty-five years of age, will be continued as a Commissioner ; and whether, in view of the contemplated sale of the portions of this estate in the hands of the encumbrancer and the recent advertisements of sale proposing to create tenancies and divide it into small areas from three acres to 150, the Congested Districts Board be consulted with a view to their purchasing this estate.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: All valuers in land purchase cases for the Land Commission are now Assistant-Commissioners. Assistant-Commissioners paid by annual salary are not permitted to make valuations of land, save in the performance of their duties for the Land Commission. Prior to his appointment in 1897 as a salaried Assistant-Commissioner, Mr. Thomas Roberts, who is an incumbrancer on the estate referred to, was Receiver over that estate. On his appointment in 1897 he resigned the Receivership, and states that he thereupon handed over his books and papers connected with the estate to the new Receiver. He further states that at no time did he inspect the estate for the purpose of valuing it or any part of it for sale, and never made any valuation for the solicitor having carriage of the sale. As to the last paragraph, if the estate referred to is in a congested district, a point upon which I have no information, any proposal that may come before the Congested Districts Board for its purchase would, of course, be considered.

DELAOUR V. HEALY.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Cork County, N.E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been

directed to the case of *Delacour v. Healy*, heard at the Castletown Roche Petty Sessions on the 27th ult., and to the action of the magistrates in refusing to adjourn the case ; whether he is aware that the adjournment was sought to enable the defendant to produce documentary evidence of his yearly tenancy, then in the possession of the clerk of the union, and that a decree for possession within fourteen days was granted on the ground that he was a caretaker ; and if he will refuse to permit the police to execute this decree until an opportunity is afforded to the tenant to produce the evidence of his yearly tenancy.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I believe the facts are correctly stated in the first and second paragraphs. I am informed that it was proved that the summons in the case had been served four days before the hearing, and that the magistrates considered this was ample time in which to obtain any documentary evidence from the clerk of the union. The decree was directed for execution to a special bailiff, and not to the police. I have no authority to put a stay on the execution of the decree.

DUBLIN CITY POLICE.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin Co., N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether any regulation exists by which members of the Dublin Metropolitan Police may be compelled to deal for such goods as they may require at particular shops ; and, if not, whether he will inquire whether any compulsion in that direction has been attempted in the district of Kilmainham ; and, if he finds that there has been, whether he will take steps to put a stop to it.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: No officer of any rank in the Dublin Metropolitan Police is permitted directly, or indirectly, to interfere with the members of the force in the purchase of goods that they require for their private use, and they are not required to deal with particular shops. A letter, bearing no signature, was recently received by the Chief Commissioner to the effect that an officer had influenced one of the men at Kilmainham Police Station to change his butcher, and on inquiry it was ascertained that there was

not a particle of foundation for the allegation.

LICENSING COMMISSION REPORTS— SUNDAY LIQUOR TRADE.

MR. TRITTON (Lambeth, Norwood): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, as both the majority and minority Reports of the Royal Commission on the Licensing Laws recommend a reduction in the hours of sale of intoxicating liquors on Sundays, he will consider the desirability of introducing a measure next session to carry out these recommendations, and thus effect a much needed reform.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (MR. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): In answer to my hon. friend, I have to say that the Report, or, rather, Reports, of the Royal Commission deserve, and will receive, our most careful attention, but I am not in a position to pledge the Government with regard to legislation on any of their recommendations at the present time.

BEN NEVIS OBSERVATORY.

MR. PIRIE: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, with reference to the proposal to discontinue the high level observatory on Ben Nevis for want of funds, if he is aware that of the £15,000 granted to the Meteorological Council by Government for scientific investigation, nearly £1,000 is taken as payment for the Council for managing the grant, whilst the secretary also receives £800; that a sum is being annually set aside by the Council in order to provide for a superannuation fund, which now amounts to £2,000, and that upwards of £3,000 has been sunk in the high level observatory at Ben Nevis, the benefits accruing to science from the expenditure of such money being probably lost if the cycle of observations is not completed; whether conditions were imposed by the Government on granting this sum for scientific research that the money should be devoted exclusively to that object, and, if not, whether such conditions could now be imposed; and if he will cause steps to be taken so that the annual grant of money may be made direct to the Scottish Society in place of going through the intermediary of the Council, thus avoiding recourse to private charity for the upkeep of the only observatory

possessed by this country at the high level of 4,400 feet.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The Government have no information as to the details of the expenditure of the Meteorological Council except such as may be derived from their report, and in that report no mention is made of any expenditure for superannuation. Their expenditure is, of course, annually audited. The council, I am informed, are overhauling their expenditure, and I trust that the result of that operation will be that more of the funds given by the State will be available for carrying on observatory work in the United Kingdom. As regards the second paragraph of the question, it is a condition that the grants should be applied exclusively to meteorological work, and no doubt the Controller and Auditor-General would call attention to any misapplication.

MR. PIRIE: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, seeing that the Meteorological Council have disregarded the recommendation given last year by the Government to afford the Scottish Meteorological Society the necessary support to maintain the Ben Nevis Observatory, he will, failing other action, bring further pressure to bear on the Meteorological Council, or increase the grant to that body by the few hundred pounds necessary to keep up the observatory as a national one.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Gentleman is under a misapprehension as regards the facts of this case. He seems to imply that pressure has been put by the Treasury on the council on former occasions with regard to the devotion of their funds to this or that purpose. The Treasury have carefully abstained from any action of that sort. The responsibility for spending their £15,000 rests, and must rest, with the Meteorological Council.

MR. BUCHANAN: Seeing that a private donor has come forward with funds to enable the observatory to be carried on for another year, will the right hon. Gentleman make inquiries during the recess to ascertain whether he would be justified in proposing next year a small grant of a few hundred pounds in aid of the observatory?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : It is not for me to say the Meteorological Council do or do not carry out the functions entrusted to them to the best advantage, but I confess I think a Government Department is even less qualified to deal with a strictly scientific matter.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. DILLON : When does the Chief Secretary propose to take the Lords' Amendments to the Irish Agriculture and Technical Instruction Bill, which we may expect down to-morrow, as the Report stage is being taken to-day ?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : It will not be possible to consider the Lords' Amendments to the Bill before Monday or Tuesday, because to-morrow must be devoted to the discussion of the Report of Supply.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

DUBLIN CORPORATION BILL.

That they insist on their Amendments to the Dublin Corporation Bill, to which this House have disagreed, for which they assign reasons, and disagree to the consequential Amendments made by this House to the Bill.

That they have agreed to—

ISLE OF MAN (CUSTOMS) BILL
Without Amendment.

AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION (IRELAND) BILL.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS BILL.

IMPROVEMENT OF LAND BILL.

SMALL HOUSES (ACQUISITION OF OWNERSHIP) BILL.

NORTH-WEST LONDON RAILWAY BILL.

BROMPTON AND PICCADILLY CIRCUS RAILWAY BILL.

LEEDS CORPORATION BILL.

CHARING-CROSS, EUSTON, AND HAMPSTEAD RAILWAY BILL.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE TRAMWAYS AND IMPROVEMENT BILL.

LONDON IMPROVEMENTS BILL.

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HARROW AND UXBRIDGE RAILWAY BILL.

UXBRIDGE AND RICKMANSWORTH RAILWAY BILL.

With Amendments.

Amendments made by this House to the Amendments made by the Lords, and to the consequential Amendment made by this House to

LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY (ADDITIONAL POWERS) BILL.

Amendments to—

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 2) BILL [Lords].

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 3) BILL [Lords].

RENFREW BURGH AND HARBOUR EXTENSION BILL [Lords].

CALEDONIAN RAILWAY (GENERAL POWERS) BILL [Lords].

ABERDEEN JOINT PASSENGER STATION BILL [Lords].

LEIGH-ON-SEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL [Lords].

MOSS SIDE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (TRAMWAYS) BILL [Lords].

STRETTFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (TRAMWAYS) BILL [Lords].

WITHINGTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (TRAMWAYS) BILL [Lords].

WESTON-SUPER-MARE, CLEVEDON, AND PORTISHEAD TRAMWAYS COMPANY (LIGHT RAILWAY EXTENSIONS) BILL [Lords].

YEADON AND GUISELEY GAS BILL [Lords].

GLASGOW AND SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY (GENERAL POWERS) BILL [Lords].

GREAT YARMOUTH WATER BILL [Lords].

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE RAILWAY BILL [Lords].

WOLVERHAMPTON TRAMWAYS BILL [Lords].

Without Amendment.

3 B

AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION (IRELAND) BILL.

Lords Amendments to be considered upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 300.]

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS BILL.

Lords Amendments to be considered upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 301.]

SMALL HOUSES (ACQUISITION OF OWNERSHIP) BILL.

Lords Amendments to be considered upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 302.]

SUPPLY [22ND ALLOTTED DAY.]

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES, 1899-1900.

CLASS I.

1. £2,303, to complete the sum for harbours under the Board of Trade.

2. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £17,500, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for constructing a new Harbour of Refuge at Peterhead."

MAJOR JAMESON (Clare, W.): I rise to protest against the enormous expenditure yearly upon Peterhead Harbour. I notice that £36,000 is taken for a railway which nobody wants, and £300 for a new road that nobody will travel over. In face of the fact that only £10,000 can be got for the whole of the harbours in Ireland, I object to £378,000 being spent on a useless harbour in the north of Scotland. I hope the House will join with me in my protest. The work is only undertaken in order to use convict labour, and it would be far cheaper to pension the convicts off, or lay them up in brown paper, than incur this enormous outlay. I beg to move to reduce the Vote by £3,500.

Motion made, and Question, "That a sum, not exceeding £14,000, be granted for the said Service"—(*Major Jameson*)—put, and negatived.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

CLASS II.

3. £329,579, to complete the sum for Stationery and Printing.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): Before this Vote passes I desire to ask the Secretary of the Treasury whether he can make any statement with reference to the course he proposes to take as to the payment to the reporters of *The Official Debates* of the sums they have lost owing to the bankruptcy of the late contractor.

MR. LEWIS (Flint Burghs): I should like to ask the right hon. Gentleman as to the desirability of allowing every Member of this House, as is the case in almost every other Parliament in the world, to have a copy of the proceedings of each day on his breakfast table the following morning. In the case of Canada each Member of Parliament finds on his breakfast table an official report of the Parliamentary proceedings of the previous day. Why cannot the Imperial Parliament give to its Members what the Dominion Parliament gives to its Members? In what respect do the circumstances of the two Parliaments differ? When we last discussed this, the hon. Member who spoke on behalf of the Government seemed to be under the impression that the hours of the Dominion Parliament were very different from our own; but I have found, on careful inquiry, and by an examination of the official reports, that the Canadian Parliament sits quite as late as our own—and, indeed, very much later. Yet, notwithstanding this fact, and the additional fact that the proceedings are conducted in two languages, Members get the official report of the proceedings on their breakfast-table the next morning. If this can be done in Canada, why cannot it be done in London? Are our printers less enterprising? Is it a matter of expense? Then, surely, if the Dominion Parliament can afford it, the Imperial Parliament should be able to do so. It would be a great advantage to hon. Members to be able to secure the answers to questions, and to keep themselves *au courant* with the proceedings of the House. Are there not other directions in which economies might be made? Certain Papers, for instance, are printed under the regulations of the House which need not be printed. Cannot it be possible to hold such Papers

as unprinted and let them be seen in the Library? Let economy be practised as far as possible in the Stationery Office. No one has done more in that direction than the Gentleman who is now responsible for it; I know that he has done his utmost in connection with these contracts to save the country unnecessary expense in the printing department. In asking the right hon. Gentleman to spend a little more money, I am only asking him to act in a direction which would be useful, and I hope the right hon. Gentleman will take this question into serious consideration. In regard to the question asked by my hon. friend in reference to the reporters who have somewhat unfortunately been deprived of what must, in some cases, have been considerable sums of money, I wish to say that the sympathy of hon. Members on both sides of the House is universally with these reporters, and if the Government can see their way to do anything in the direction of helping them, nobody in this House, or outside it, would raise any objection.

*MR. McLEOD (Sutherlandshire): I wish to join the hon. Gentlemen who have just spoken in their appeal to the Secretary to the Treasury on behalf of the reporters of *The Debates*. I think the reflection should not lie on this House that the work on some of these volumes of Debates is not paid for. It may be perfectly true that the Treasury are not directly responsible, but they were responsible for accepting the contractor they did, and they should have seen to it that the security they got was thoroughly adequate, and that it was impossible for such circumstances to occur as they did in this case. There is another point I wish to refer to, and on which I wish some information. I must confess that when the reporters parted with their manuscript without an understanding that they would be paid for their arrears, they showed a simplicity not usually exhibited by the members of the Press. I am told that the officials held over them a threat that if the reporters refused, on any consideration, to give up their manuscript they would not be employed in future on *The Debates*. That is a reflection which ought to be removed if there is no ground for it. But, apart entirely from that consideration, I do think that on the broad ground that these men are not in a position to stand the very serious loss of

not being paid for their labour, and on the ground that, after all, we were responsible for accepting the contractor, and that the sum involved is comparatively a small one, the Treasury should see their way to pay the gentlemen, and in that way remove a very considerable reflection on this assembly.

*MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS (Notts, Mansfield): There are two points in connection with this Vote to which I wish to call attention—I mean the quantity of printed matter poured in upon us, and the character of the reporting of *The Debates*. I lately, through a question, called the attention of the Secretary to the Treasury to the immense quantity of printed matter delivered to us—a large portion of which is of no interest to the general body of Members; and the right hon. Gentleman was good enough to promise to see if there could not be a reduction of that amount. I call attention to only one class of Papers—the Amendments to private Bills—that come down to us. I remember on one occasion there were 112 pages of Amendments to private Bills, and quite lately—within the last few days—forty pages of Amendments were delivered, and this morning twenty pages. With regard to the reporting of the Debates of the House, a great improvement has taken place since the new contract was entered into, in the speedy delivery of the reports, but with regard to the character of the reporting I am not able to express so favourable an opinion. The right hon. Gentleman said in June that the new contract was on precisely the same conditions as the pre-existing contract. I was rather sorry to hear it, and my regret has been increased since, because we have still to complain of the inaccurate character of much of the reporting. It is a moot point whether condensed reports would not in the majority of cases be preferable to reports which are verbatim. Condensed reports, however, require a great deal of skill, and skill must be paid for. If we could always ensure that our Debates should be reported in the intelligent and admirable manner in which they appear day by day in *The Times* newspaper, we might be more content with condensed reports than we are at present. The most irritating part of it is that reports which pretend to be verbatim are not verbatim at all. They are given in the language of the reporter

and not in the language of the speaker. I know some Members who say they cannot take the trouble, in revising the proofs of their speeches, to restore something like the original language they used. I do not know how long this contract is to run. I assume there is no opportunity of making an alteration at the present time, but I hope, if the right hon. Gentleman should be in office when the change is made, that he will see that it is made in the right direction.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfarshire): There have been in the last few years several changes in the contractors who have undertaken the reporting, and that has led to a change in the system of indexing more than once. I hope that in future there will be greater uniformity in the indexing of the discussions. At the present time there are not a sufficient number of copies of the early *Hansards* of this year to supply hon. Members who want them. I wish to ask whether the Stationery Office would not reprint some of these earlier numbers.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): I express a hope that before the Vote comes on next year the Government will see their way to follow the example set this session by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and have duplicate type-written answers to all questions placed in the library for the convenience of Members.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That is not a question on the printing Vote.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): An hon. Member below the Gangway seemed to raise some question with regard to the treatment of the reporters by the Stationery Office in reference to the handing over their manuscripts. I do not think there is any justification for that complaint. What happened was this. Under the circumstances the Stationery Office were most anxious to assist these reporters in every legitimate way, and therefore they took two steps. In the first place they asked the new contractor to take the reporters on. I do not know how far they were wise in doing so, for I think there is some justification for the complaints of the reporting by the hon. Member opposite. I am bound to say that the condensation

of the speeches is not by any means done as well as the House has a right to expect. The reports which profess to be verbatim are not verbatim as a matter of fact. They are in the words not of the speaker, but of the reporter, and in that sense are misleading. It was a very difficult thing to interfere during the present session, as the Stationery Office was anxious that these reporters should be allowed to continue during the remainder of the session. But I am bound to say that the Stationery Office will have to take steps another year to see that the reporting is better done. We have a right to have it done well, because it is a fairly lucrative contract. I believe that with the exception of a few speakers we do not want the speeches at full length or verbatim. In the majority of cases the speeches should be condensed, and in order to get proper condensation we would have to employ reporters capable of doing that work well. With regard to the question of compensating the reporters who have been referred to, I hope the Committee will bear in mind that we ought not to run the risk of creating a very dangerous precedent. In the first place, so far as the contractor himself goes, I do not know that his contract stands in a different position from any other contract made on the part of the Government. It is not pretended that it was not a remunerative contract. It is not pretended that it was not a contract under which the contractor could very well afford, not only to pay good salaries, but to pay them punctually. I do not disguise from the Committee the fact that I believe that the contract is worth £3,000 a year to the contractor. If it is said that the late contractor took it at a price very much below the other tenders, I will tell the Committee exactly what happened. Under the last contract we had paid a subsidy of about £300 a volume for *Hansard*. To my astonishment, when the tenders were sent in I found that the large firms—whether they had combined together or not I cannot say—but, at any rate, it was a remarkable fact that the tenders of the principal firms were £900, £1,000, and £1,100 per volume. Well, the late contractor, being a foreman engaged by one of these firms, and who had been thoroughly well acquainted with the working of the contract, tendered on his own account at a low rate. We took sureties for the due performance

Mr. Correll Williams.

of the contract, and, as I have said, in tendering for a subsidy of £300 per volume, he had admitted that he was able to make a large profit. That was sufficient justification in our case for not accepting the absurd tenders of £900, £1,000, and £1,100 per volume. Now, the new contractors are Messrs. Wyman's, a very responsible firm, who have got very large contracts with the Government, and they have taken over the contract on the same terms as Mr. Bussy. It is a very serious step indeed for the House to say that the responsibility must fall upon the taxpayer and not upon the contractor for the payment of his servants. That is not a rule which would be applied in the case of any other contract, so far as I know, and I therefore ask hon. Members, however anxious they may be to do justice in the case of these men, to recollect that there is no difference between this and any other contract; and if the bad precedent were once set of the Government making good wages and payments due by the Government contractors we should be saddled with an unlimited responsibility. I hope that anything which the Committee in its good nature may wish to do will not be of such a character as to set such a dangerous precedent. After all I believe what was in the minds of many hon. Members who signed the memorial asking that something should be done for these men, was perhaps the thought that these men were brought more closely into relations with the House than the employees of other contractors. There may be something in that view. But even if there is, I cannot see that that would be sufficient justification for such a step. The real question is—and this will have to be treated as an exceptional case—how far these reporters *bonâ fide* believed they were in the personal service of the House and not of the contractor. That is a question of evidence; and so far as the Government and the Stationery Office are concerned nothing has been said, written, or done which would lead the reporters to take that view. But I will undertake to see these reporters and find out what evidence they are able to afford the Government which would indicate that they had any just reason for supposing that they were in any sense in the employment of the Government. If they establish that case, then it is only right that the House should do something for them. The House is always

very generous to those in its employment, but I ask the House to pause before creating a very dangerous precedent. The only ground for doing this is that these men thought they were in our employment. I will see them and go into the facts of the case; and the House may trust me that, if any reliable evidence is brought forward to show that these men had any sound ground to believe they were in the employment of the Government, I will make good what was due to them. But I cannot admit claims without scrutiny. If we are to pay anything, the proper course will be to see what claims are established against the estate in bankruptcy, and to recognise those claims; for I fear that nothing will come out of the estate. With regard to the point raised by the hon. Member for Flint, I do not know that there is any burning anxiety on the part of the House to get the reports of the previous night's debate on the breakfast table each morning, and unless there is a very strong desire on the part of hon. Gentlemen to have these reports produced so early I do not see any advantage in it. As to the Canadian Parliament, I do not think the hon. Member is quite accurate. The Canadian Parliament does not sit so late as the House of Commons, and I am told that the Members of that House do not receive their reports next day. But, however that may be, I cannot meet the hon. Member's views until the House displays a greater disposition to agree with him in the desire to have the reports furnished next day. I think myself that there is a great deal of waste in the printing of the House, that a great deal of printing is done that is not necessary, whether in the Orders of the Day or otherwise, and before next session I will consult with the authorities to see whether it is not possible to prevent some of this unnecessary printing. With regard to the earlier copies of *Hansard's Debates* for this session, I am afraid the late contractor's bankruptcy may create some difficulty. What we have done is this. We were afraid that, as there were only a limited number of copies, they might be bought up by outsiders and offered at prohibitive prices. Therefore I instructed the Controller of the Stationery Office to arrange with the Receiver in Bankruptcy to buy up all the printed copies, and these will be distributed in the ordinary way.

There are more than enough to meet the claims of those who had given orders in advance: but the full extent of the demand cannot be gauged until the end of the session. I do not think it would be right that Members who have kept *Hansard's Debates* for a series of years should have to go without their copies: and, therefore, a reprint might be necessary.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): We know by the examples in our library that it is very difficult to index our own Parliamentary papers; still, allowing for all the difficulties, the indexing of the *Hansard Debates* is extremely perplexing. But I rise with regard to one or two matters mentioned by the right hon. gentleman the Secretary to the Treasury. With regard to the official reporters, the right hon. gentleman has, I think, gone as near giving a promise to do something for the reporters as it is possible to do. He is disposed to do something if it is not brought up as a precedent in any other contract, and I accept his words as being virtually a promise that he will not only look into this matter but redress the grievance. He asks for evidence that these reporters believed themselves to be in the employment of the House. It seems to me that the use of the phrases during the last four years of "official reporters" and "official reports" is quite sufficient to justify the reporters in the belief that they were in the service of this House, and that was the main point in the mind of the Leader of the Opposition when he signed the memorial on behalf of these persons. With regard to the contract itself, the right hon. Gentleman spoke of its being so much a volume. Did the Treasury make any stipulation as to what should be the contents of a volume, because I notice in recent years some volumes have been brought down to such a size as to be less than a quarter of the size of the earlier volumes.

MR. HANBURY: In the contract there is a definite minimum number of pages per volume fixed. The smallness of these volumes may be due to a difference in the spacing. There has been no alteration in the terms of the contract in respect to the number of pages.

Mr. Hanbury.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: With regard to the suggestion of my hon. friend that we should have the official report of the proceedings delivered the morning after those proceedings have taken place, I do not think there is any assembly in the world which sits anything like such a length of time as we do; and in those places where they circulate the official report the next day it is essentially an inconvenient practice, because hon. Members are kept up half the night to correct their speeches for the Press. I am quite sure that any such institution here would be entirely alien to our habits. With regard to the last suggestion, that the amount of printing should be reduced, no doubt it might be reduced; but there is a certain danger in reducing it. All the Members of the House would have to be informed by some careful index as to what the documents were which would not be printed. Even in the large amount of printing concerning private Bills, occasionally matters of considerable public importance are incorporated.

MR. LEWIS: The right hon. Gentleman has expressed some doubt as to the hours of the sittings of the Canadian Parliament and as to the time that members receive the official reports. If the right hon. Gentleman would take the trouble to go to the library, he would see from those official reports the hour at which the Speaker takes the chair and the hour at which the House rises, and he would also see—I dare say very much to his surprise—that the Dominion Parliament very often sits as late as the Imperial Parliament, especially towards the end of the session. In spite of all these difficulties, however, the Dominion Parliament is able to produce the reports at the time I have mentioned. With regard to the time that the members receive proofs of their speeches, I may say that my authority is the hon. Member for South Longford, who occupied a very leading position in the Canadian Parliament for many years, and who may be supposed to know better than anyone in this country what the customs of the Canadian Parliament have been in this respect. I have thought it right to make this explanation, inasmuch as my statement has to some extent been traversed.

Vote agreed to.

4. £3,454, to complete the sum for the Lunacy Commission, Scotland.

5. £2,829, to complete the sum for the Registrar-General's Office, Scotland.

CLASS IV.

6. £381,793, to complete the sum for the Science and Art Department.

7. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £106,030 (including a Supplementary sum of £3,750), be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1900, for the Salaries and other Expenses of the British Museum, and of the Natural History Museum, including certain Grants in Aid."

MR. LEWIS: I have given notice of a motion for the reduction of this particular Vote, which is not on the Paper. My object in doing so is to draw attention to the unjust manner, as we regard it in Wales, in which Wales is treated in respect to the Museum Grant. This is by no means the first time that this question has been raised in the House, and I may say that on every previous occasion we have had replies of the most favourable character from the Minister in charge of the Vote. It is one in which non-political bodies in Wales take a very great interest. The county councils have, I believe, sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer resolutions upon the subject, and I venture to hope that those representations, coming from the most influential quarters that we have in Wales, will receive favourable consideration. We think that our educational system in Wales is imperfect so long as we have no proper museum provision, especially in connection with our intermediate schools. Some of the most important collections have been destroyed by fire, and we have lost some of our most valued treasures on that account, and what we ask is that a

national institution should be established in Wales, to which, I am sure, many collectors would be only too delighted to contribute.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! I do not think that this question arises under this Vote. The trustees of the British Museum are confined in their operations to the limits of certain Statutes, and the hon. Member must show that under these Statutes they could start a museum in Wales.

MR. LEWIS: I have always hitherto been allowed to raise this question either under the heading of Science and Art, or under that of the British Museum. I was under the impression that I was taking the proper course by raising the question on the Vote for the British Museum. I will move to reduce the sum for the British Museum by £10,000, on the ground that the provision made for Welsh antiquities, manuscripts, &c., in the British Museum is inadequate, and that that institution ought to collect, as far as possible, all the antiquities relating to Wales, all the valuable manuscripts, and so forth, and place them in one portion of the building, where the Welsh public would be able to consult them, and in that way be able not only to have easy access to the articles of interest to Wales in the British Museum, but also to be able to see them all together. I recognise, of course, that your ruling, Mr. Chairman, has restricted the scope of my remarks very considerably, but I would venture to say that my proposal would be perhaps the essential preliminary to the establishment of a national museum in Wales. I can only assure the right hon. Gentleman that the greatest interest has for many years past been taken in this particular question, that people belonging to all parties are heartily united in its support, and that the requests we have made have been very small and very reasonable.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 136; Noes, 51. (Division List, No. 337.)

AYES.

Aird, John
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir W. Reynell
Arnold, Alfred
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John

Bagot, Capt. J. FitzRoy
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. J. Blair (Clackm.)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell

Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. A. Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James

Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bonsor, Henry Cosmo Orme
 Boulnois, Edmund
 Brassey, Albert
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
 Carlile, William Walter
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Cornwallis, Fiennes S. W.
 Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chath'm)
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Evans, Sir F. H. (South'ton)
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Flower, Ernest
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Fry, Lewis
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond)
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbert J.

Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Halsey, Thomas Frederick
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Hermon-Hodge, Robert Trotter
 Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampstead)
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kimber, Henry
 Knowles, Lees
 Lawrence, Sir E. D. (Corn.)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swans.)
 Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverp'l)
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lubbock, Rt. Hon. Sir John
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdonna, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 M'Arthur William (Cornwall)
 M'Crae, George
 M'Ewan, William
 Malcolm, Ian
 Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropsh.)
 Morrell, George Herbert

Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bate)
 Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
 Newdigate, Francis A.
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebottom, William (Derbys.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm)
 Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyvill, Marquess D'Arcy
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Bainbridge, Emerson
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Billson, Alfred
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir C. (Glasgow)
 Channing, Francis (Allston)
 Curran Thomas B. (Donegal)
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Fenwick, Charles
 Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
 Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
 Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John

Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
 Kilbride, Denis
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr)
 Moss, Samuel
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Palmer, Sir Chas. M. (Durham)
 Perks, Robert William
 Pirie, Duncan V.

Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Runciman, Walter
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spicer, Albert
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Ure, Alexander
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, J. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
 Wilson, H. J. (Yorks, W. R.)
 Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Herbert Lewis and Mr.
 Lloyd-George.

8. £6,149, to complete the sum for the National Gallery.

MR. LEWIS: There is an amount of £5,000 for the purchase of pictures in 1893-99. Can the right hon. Gentleman say in what way that expenditure was incurred—what pictures were purchased?

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS-BEACH, Bristol, W.) was understood to say that two Rembrandts which were valuable pictures had been purchased.

9. £2,981, to complete the sum for the National Portrait Gallery.

MR. LEWIS: I observe that the amount voted for the purchase of pictures in 1898-99 was £1,104, while this year it is £750. May I ask whether there is any particular reason for that decrease?

MR. HANBURY: There is no special reason.

LORD EDMOND FITZMAURICE (Wiltshire, Cricklade): I desire to say a few words in regard to the correspondence which has recently been published with reference to the National Portrait Gallery. I cannot help hoping that before another year Her Majesty's Government will consider as to whether this gallery, which is now so much appreciated by the public, cannot be treated with greater liberality. I am quite aware that there are very great demands upon the Government, but surely at a time when education of all kinds is being so much more appreciated, the artistic side might well be thought of. Perhaps I may be told that the artistic side of education and art itself are adequately represented by the National Gallery. I think then I may say that there is another side to the National Portrait Gallery, and that is the historical interest of it. Whatever may be the case with regard to the National Gallery, which is no doubt a popular gallery and attracts a great number of the public, yet on the whole the National Portrait Gallery appeals to the average citizen as much as, if not more than, the National Gallery. There are, no doubt, a considerable number of persons who value a picture on its artistic side, but there is a far larger class who take an interest in art from a historical point of view. There is another reason why the Government might do something to aid this collection. Up to the present time the national contribution has been extraordinarily small. Not only is the annual Vote very small in amount, but the gallery itself was provided by the splendid generosity of one individual, so that it cannot be said that the nation has ever provided itself with a gallery of historical art. If Mr. Alexander had not presented at enormous cost that gallery to the nation, this magnificent collection would still be slowly deteriorating as it was for many years in the gallery at Bethnal Green, where the miserable parsimony of successive Governments left it to be gradually destroyed by

the action of time. It is perfectly well known that one of the greatest authorities on art we ever had warned the Treasury over and over again that owing to the peculiar position of the gallery at Bethnal Green and the manner in which it was constructed, those pictures were bound to deteriorate year by year. At length, Mr. Alexander came forward, and owing to his generosity the country received this magnificent gift. That being so, the Trustees of the National Portrait Gallery may surely appeal to the Treasury for something more generous to be done in regard to the sum given annually than is now the case. I need not repeat to the House the terms of the almost ludicrous reply, if I may say so, which was given the other day by the Treasury to the letter of Lord Peel. The Trustees appealed to the Treasury for a moderate enlargement of the annual sum voted, and Lord Peel, on their behalf, called special attention to the fact that there were certain pictures in the market at that moment which were of very great importance. One of those pictures was a portrait of Her Majesty the Queen, by a distinguished English artist, and pictures of the Queen by English artists are exceedingly rare; another was a picture, of great artistic and also of great historical value, of King Charles I.; and the third was a picture of Queen Henrietta Maria. Those are all of very great interest, both from the point of view of art and of history. The reply, which will certainly be historic but not artistic, appeared to be that these three persons were not of sufficient importance to find a place in the gallery. That is the meaning which might be extracted from the words, although I venture to say it was not intended; but the letter was a most awkward one and exceedingly ill-expressed, and every newspaper from one end of the country to the other burst into what may be called a prolonged peal of laughter over it. I venture to make a most earnest appeal to the Government to consider the position of this gallery. If they study the figures which we can give them, and which are in the possession of the House, they will see that this gallery is becoming more and more appreciated from year to year. A great nation like this, which can afford to vote enormous sums of money for all conceivable purposes, some of which, in my opinion, are of very doubtful value, ought not to grudge the few extra hundreds

which the trustees, through Lord Peel, have asked for, in order to buy pictures which very likely may pass out of the country altogether, or if they do not pass out of the country, it will be because of the generosity of some private individual who occasionally comes forward at the last minute and saves a picture of great national interest.

*SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: What appears to me to be ludicrous in this matter is, not the Treasury letter, but the interpretation which has been placed upon it. By a peculiar form of criticism, which consists in adopting the answer of the Treasury to one request as the answer to another request, it has been made to appear that the Treasury has described Her Majesty the Queen, King Charles I., and Queen Henrietta Maria as persons who were not celebrated in history. In the first instance, the trustees asked for a special grant for the purchase of these three pictures, and that application was declined. Then they asked that their annual grant might be increased by a considerable amount, and they based that request on the ground of the increased cost of artistic pictures which they might desire to add to the gallery. To that a reply was returned to the effect that the intention of the National Portrait Gallery is rather to provide a gallery of portraits of celebrated characters in English history than a gallery of art. The result has been somewhat singular. The trustees of the National Portrait Gallery valued the three pictures to which the noble Lord has referred at very high prices, and I have seen a criticism of their valuation which describes it as quite excessive. As far as I am aware, no picture by Sir David Wilkie has ever reached the price put upon this particular picture by the trustees, and with regard to the other pictures, they are by no means of first-class artistic value. Since making that request to the Treasury, the trustees of the National Portrait Gallery do not now desire to purchase this particular portrait of Her Majesty the Queen, and with regard to the other two pictures of King Charles I. and Queen Henrietta Maria, it is notorious that there is in the National Gallery collection a picture of Charles I. of far greater artistic excellence; while there are pictures already of both these sovereigns in the National Portrait Gallery. That brings me to

Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice.

what is the real point of difficulty. Is the National Portrait Gallery to have its grant increased in order to enable it to bid against the National Gallery for the purchase of works of art in the market? That, I think, would be a ludicrous proposition, and one which the Committee would never sanction. I am informed that there are a good many portraits in the National Portrait Gallery which are by no means of historic importance, many of which have been given by the relatives of persons shortly after their death, and which have been allowed to find a place in the National Portrait Gallery. I would suggest to the noble Lord and his colleagues that they would be doing a useful work if they weeded their gallery of the pictures of persons of no historic importance. I would also make a further suggestion. I think it might be possible to make some arrangements between the trustees of the National Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery, by which the portraits of persons of historical importance in the history of the United Kingdom might be transferred from the National Gallery to the National Portrait Gallery. That would be greatly to the advantage of the National Portrait Gallery, and would stamp it as the national collection of portraits rather than of works of art. If an arrangement of that sort could be made, I should be quite prepared to consider, on the part of the Government, an application for the increase of the funds at the disposal of the trustees of the National Portrait Gallery, by which, if necessary, they might, from time to time, purchase valuable portraits of celebrated personages in the history of the United Kingdom, because then they would not be in competition with the trustees of the National Gallery. I hope I have not detained the Committee too long in explaining what seems to me to be the real difficulty.

LORD EDMOND FITZMAURICE: In reply to what has fallen from the Chancellor of the Exchequer upon the general question of the position of the gallery, I can assure the right hon. gentleman that the points to which he has alluded have been present over and over again in the minds of the trustees of the National Portrait Gallery. I quite agree that some years ago there was a tendency on the part of the then trustees of the National

Portrait Gallery to buy pictures which, from the historical and artistic point of view combined, were not altogether worthy of the collection. I must also add that the pictures which come within that criticism are not those of personages recently deceased, and in this respect the Chancellor of the Exchequer is wrong. We have a rule, which we can only depart from by special arrangement, that we do not buy pictures of persons recently deceased. The whole of the pictures which are on our walls of persons recently deceased are pictures which have been given to us, and which have cost us nothing at all. We have had, for instance, a magnificent gift of pictures by that famous artist, Mr. Watts. I do not think anybody desires that we should refuse to accept such a magnificent gift as that. In regard to the question of a joint arrangement, I join with every single word which the right hon. Gentleman has said, and if he can persuade the authorities of the National Gallery to enter into any such arrangement I am sure nobody will be more delighted than the trustees of the National Portrait Gallery. So far as I can recollect, whenever any suggestion of that kind has been made by the trustees I do not think it has ever been received in a friendly spirit by the trustees of the National Gallery, for they do not like to denude their walls of pictures, some of which are the finest works of art, and they are determined to keep them there. I am quite willing to grant that from a commonsense point of view there are certain absurdities in these two galleries, which are door to door and back to back, occasionally appearing to compete with one another; but I must deny that under the present management it can be shown that the two galleries have driven up prices one against the other. If the right hon. Gentleman will examine carefully into this question, and put himself in communication with the trustees, he will find that they have had present in their minds all those points he has mentioned.

Vote agreed to.

10. £6,000, to complete the sum for the Wallace Collection.

11. £67,700, to complete the sum for Universities and Colleges, Great Britain, and Intermediate Education, Wales.

12. £4, to complete the sum for London University.

13. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £701,861, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for Public Education in Scotland, and for Science and Art in Scotland."

SIR CHARLES CAMERON (Glasgow, Bridgeton): I desire to draw attention to the refusal of the School Board for Kilmalcolm to provide school accommodation for the 900 children who are inmates of the Quarrier Homes at Bridge-of-Weir. Mr. Quarrier considers that he is entitled to have the children in his homes educated at the public schools. He asked the School Board authorities to admit these children into the public schools, but they have refused to do so, and in this action they have been backed up by the Scotch Education Department, and that is what I desire to protest against. I asked the Lord Advocate the other day a question with regard to an exactly similar case in another parish, where there is a home maintained by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and in that home there are sixty or seventy children from all parts of Scotland. Now these children are educated at the Board school, and so far from there being any objection to them, the authorities are very glad to have them, because they find that the grant from the Imperial funds for their education pays all the expenses which they are put to. In the parish to which I allude it was necessary to enlarge the school in order to accommodate these children; but in the case to which I refer no such necessity exists, and Mr. Quarrier is willing to send the children to the school, but the authorities will not receive them. The result has been that since the middle of April last these children have been receiving absolutely no education. The excuse made by the Lord Advocate is that the Department do not think it is fair that these children should receive their education at the expense of this parish; but it is equally hard in other parishes where public institutions of this kind have been founded. I maintain that, as the law does not impose upon any other body except

the School Board the duty of educating children, and as education is made compulsory by law, the School Board is bound to educate these children. The law takes no cognizance of Mr. Quarrier; it cannot compel him to educate these children. An offer has been made by the Education Department to pay for these children if Mr. Quarrier would submit his schools for examination; but Mr. Quarrier has a conscientious scruple to earning grants, and he has never availed himself of his right to obtain educational grants. The law cannot compel him to accept them, but the law does give the Department power to provide for the education of these children, and in leaving the matter in its present deadlock the Department is grossly neglecting its duty. I do not believe there would be any hardship on the parish if these children went into the public schools, because they would earn quite sufficient to defray every cost to which the School Board would be put in providing for their education. But there is a much greater obstruction than the question of expense. The parish concerned is a favourite residential district, and a number of genteel people send their children to the board schools, and they do not like their children coming into contact with Mr. Quarrier's waifs and strays. Such action is contrary to the whole principle of education in Scotland. Mr. Quarrier is a ratepayer, but the law does not demand that a man should be a ratepayer before he can have his children educated, or even that the children should be his own, because if a man has charge of children and they are not sent to school he is liable to be punished. The excuse put forward on behalf of the Department is absolutely flimsy and unsatisfactory, and I must protest against the elaborate show which is being made of care for secondary education, when such an elementary duty as the education of these children is so absolutely neglected and repudiated by the Department. I beg to move the reduction of the Vote by the sum of £1,000.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That a sum, not exceeding £700,861, be granted for the said Service."—(*Sir Charles Cameron.*)

THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): There is really not the slightest justification for

Sir Charles Cameron.

the statement of the hon. Baronet that the Department has been in any way supine in this matter, or that they have made a flimsy excuse. The position is a very peculiar one. Of Mr. Quarrier I do not wish to say anything, except that he seems to be a gentleman whom it is difficult to get to give way when he has once made up his mind. Mr. Quarrier collected a large number of what the hon. Baronet calls waifs and strays and placed them in what after all is a little country parish. All of a sudden, and moved thereto by the fact that a legal decision had been given for which no one was specially responsible—it being merely a decision of the courts putting in force the law of the land—Mr. Quarrier announced that these 900 children would have to be educated at the Board schools.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: Mr. Quarrier stated that he would provide for the education of the children as long as he was not rated.

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: But it was not possible for the local body to grant him an exemption from rates. As far as educating these 900 children at the Board schools is concerned, that is physically impossible, as the accommodation is not equal to it. The School Board, rightly or wrongly, contend that there is no absolute duty on them, under the circumstances, to take these 900 children. An application was made to the Department, and, as the hon. Baronet is aware, the Department made an offer to Mr. Quarrier that if he would continue to educate these children as before they would be perfectly prepared under the condition of inspection to admit his school to a full share of the grant from public schools. Mr. Quarrier did not see his way to accept the offer, and the Department is confronted with the refusal of Mr. Quarrier on the one hand, and with the asseveration of the School Board on the other that they are not legally liable for the education of these children. I am not going to say now what the ultimate decision of the Education Department may be. What I do want to tell the Committee is that the matter is not such plain sailing as the hon. Baronet thinks. He seems to imagine that there is nothing more to do except to provide new schools for the education of these children, but

then Mr. Quarrier might say, "No; I have changed my mind. I will educate the children myself again." It is not a simple question, but a question which has to be worked out very carefully. It is a question in which the Department cannot be forced. Negotiations have been going on with the School Board, and also with Mr. Quarrier. I can assure the hon. Baronet that the matter will be carried to an issue. The Department is in no way responsible for Mr. Quarrier choosing to raise the whole question by suddenly stopping the education of these children instead of raising it by procedure at law.

SIR CHARLES CAMERON: The law in Scotland provides for the education of all children. The right hon. Gentleman says that Mr. Quarrier brought about a crisis by suddenly stopping the education of these children, but before that I asked a question of the right hon. Gentleman on the subject and he informed me that the case did not arise, whereupon Mr. Quarrier brought it to an issue by marching the children to the school. The case has now been running on for nearly four months, and while the Education Department are deliberating these children are growing up absolutely without education.

MR. PIRIE: I am exceedingly glad the hon. Baronet has moved the reduction of the Vote. I only regret the hon. Member for West Renfrewshire, in whose constituency the district concerned is, is not present to give us his advice. This is a matter which is exciting almost as great an interest in Scotland as the case of Dr. Lamont, and may lead to an equal scandal. I may say, without exaggeration, that Mr. Quarrier is a man whose charity and benevolence are almost world-wide, and the outcome of his self-sacrificing labours is that 900 children are left for four months without any education at all. The right hon. Gentleman said that Mr. Quarrier was a difficult man to persuade. I am glad that he is, when he realises that he is right, and I hope that all Scotchmen when they realise they are right will not allow themselves to be persuaded they are wrong. Taking into consideration that a great many buildings and institutions such as Volunteer drill-halls, churches, and so on are exempt from rates, I think the regulations might

have been somewhat relaxed in this case, at any rate until it was settled. The Lord Advocate says that Mr. Quarrier might have raised this question in a court of law. That is the old story—the weak having to bear the expenses against the strong. It is the most extraordinary idea of fairplay that I can imagine, that an appeal to the law should be made by the weaker rather than by the stronger party. The stronger should give way pending a settlement of the question; and then we would not see 900 children going without education. I intend to support the reduction of the Vote.

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: Legal proceedings have nothing to do with the question. As regards the other matters, the hon. Gentlemen suggested that there should be a stretching of regulations, but there are no regulations to stretch to meet the views of hon. Members. The matter does not concern the administration of any Government Department.

MR. SOUTTAR (Dumfriesshire): I know Mr. Quarrier's homes, and I admit the good work he has done; but I do not feel myself entirely in accord with what has been said by previous speakers. I think Mr. Quarrier has put himself in a false position. I know it is impossible to make an exception in the case of a charitable institution in the matter of rates. If a concession is made to one a hundred would claim it, and a good deal of embarrassment would ensue. I think Mr. Quarrier was wrong in fighting the question of rates. Of course, Mr. Quarrier is a poor man, and cannot fight the question in the Courts himself; but we must not forget that he has a large and influential backing, and there would not have been the slightest difficulty in finding the money. Mr. Quarrier made a mistake in stopping the education of these children. That was not a Scotch proceeding, and he has raised the question in an objectionable way. The fact remains, as the hon. Baronet says, that although the Scotch people are so very jealous in regard to educational matters, 900 Scotch children are at present not being educated in these schools. I am exceedingly glad to hear that there is a hope that this state of things will not long continue.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 66; Noes, 141. (Division List, No. 338.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
 Asher, Alexander
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. B. (Clackm.)
 Billson, Alfred
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Caldwell, James
 Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Dillon, John
 Donegan, Captain A.
 Fenwick, Charles
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
 Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
 Hedderwick, Thos. Chas. H.
 Hogan, James Francis
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace

Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kilbride, Denis
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'tnd)
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Macaleese, Daniel
 Mc'Donnell, Dr. M.A. (Qn's C.)
 M'Crae, George
 McLeod, John
 Maddison, Fred
 Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
 Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moss, Samuel
 Norton, Captain Cecil W.
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Connor, J. (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)

Perks, Robert William
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Runciman, Walter
 Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spicer, Albert
 Steadman, William Charles
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, J. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, J. Carvell (Notta.)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
 Wilson, Jos. H. (Middlesbro')
 Yoxall, James Henry
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir Charles Cameron and
 Mr. Pirie.

NOES.

Aird, John
 Allsopp, Hon. George
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Arnold, Alfred
 Arrol, Sir William
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. J. FitzRoy
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barnes, Frederic Gorell
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Bathurst, Hon. A. Benjamin
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Bethell, Commander
 Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
 Bigwood, James
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffiths
 Boulnois, Edmund
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Butcher, John George
 Carlile, William Walter
 Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
 Carlile, William Walter
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Cornwallis-Fiennes Stanley W.
 Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, David (Liverpool)
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.

Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firlbank, Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Flower, Ernest
 Fry, Lewis
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond)
 Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Giles, Charles Tyrell
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. George's)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampst'd)
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Kimber, Henry
 Knowles, Lees
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Corn)
 Lawrence, W. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Llewellyn, Sir Dillwyn- (Swans.)
 Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Lubbock, Right Hon. Sir J.
 Lucas-Shadwell, William
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 McEwan, William

Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 More, Robert Jasper (Shropsh.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deftford)
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, H. (Hackney)
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbyshire)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley Hn. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Strauss, Arthur
 Scrutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sutherland, Sir Thos. Oxam
 Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Ox. Univ.)
 Tomlinson, W. E. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, J. Powell- (Birm.)
 Willson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyvill, Marmaduke d'Arcy

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir
 William Walrond and Mr.
 Anstruther.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

14. £2,000, to complete the sum for the National Gallery, etc., Scotland.

15. £621,117, to complete the sum for Public Education, Ireland.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I wish to direct the attention of the Committee to a very great abuse that has arisen in connection with public education in Ireland. There are three or four extremely important questions which we have been anxious to bring under the notice of the Committee, and which we have been urged to bring forward by various parties interested in public education in Ireland. We made various appeals to the Government to give us another day for the discussion of the Irish Votes. The limit of time has been cut down this year to three days, instead of the four which were allowed us in the first year after the new rule as to Supply was introduced. The consequence is, that several of the largest and most important of the Irish Votes have been thrown over till this evening. This extremely important Vote for Public Education in Ireland really ought to have had a whole night in itself. I am not prepared to discuss the Vote to-night, for there is no adequate time to deal with it. Another reason which induces me to take this course, is that the large body of Irish Members had given up the hope of the Vote being discussed, and returned to Ireland. It is purely accidental that even a few of us are here on the present occasion, for we had no assurance that even a few hours would be given to the Vote to-night. I abstain, therefore, from entering into the question, and have risen only for the purpose of protesting against the treatment given to Irish supply this year.

Vote agreed to.

16. £560, to complete the sum for Endowed Schools Commissioners, Ireland,

17. £1,300, to complete the sum for the National Gallery of Ireland.

18. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £2,450, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st

day of March 1900, for a Grant in Aid of the Expenses of the Queen's Colleges in Ireland."

MR. DILLON: We had this year a very full discussion on the Queen's Colleges, which occupied an entire night. I only desire to make a few observations in order to protest against this Vote, and I will take a Division against it. We have had promises and declarations from Ministers with regard to this whole question of University Education in Ireland, which, I regret to say, have been departed from. In the speech of the First Lord of the Treasury during the debate this year on this question of the grievances of Irish Catholics, and the shameful oppression of the Irish Catholics in regard to University Education, a retrograde step has no doubt been taken. So far as we can judge from the answers of Ministers, we are now further removed from a hope of a settlement than we were twelve years ago, when a remarkable speech was made by the present Chancellor of the Exchequer on the eve of the defeat of the Tory Government; and certainly further removed than we were on the eve of the General Election of 1892, when the then Unionist Government gave the Irish Catholics distinctly to understand, not directly by the mouth of the Leader of the Government, but by various subterranean and irregular channels, that if the Unionists were returned to power this Irish grievance would be immediately dealt with. Now, the First Lord of the Treasury himself has gone so far on this question as to declare, in so many words, that if the Unionists could not settle this grievance, their moral claim to govern Ireland was severely shaken; and he conveyed the impression, in a great and remarkable speech a year ago last January, that he felt that the claim of this Parliament to be able to govern Ireland as well as a native Parliament could do, would be shattered and destroyed if this Parliament and Unionist Government were unable to redress this grievance. The First Lord of the Treasury, in the discussion on this matter six weeks ago, seemed to be under the impression that I was discouraging his efforts, and was ungrateful to him as an Irish Catholic for the exertions he had made to convert his party and others in the country to his point of view on Irish University Education. But that is not

the fact. I have never spoken on this subject, either in Ireland or in this House, without saying that the Irish Catholics on this particular question, however bitterly we may differ from him on other questions, owe him a great debt of gratitude. But there is a limit to patience, and though we fully recognise the exertions of the right hon. Gentleman, and admire the eloquence with which he has stated our case, we do say that the time has come when the Government ought to declare their policy more specifically and categorically than they have hitherto done. The shadow of another General Election is deepening over us, and we are entitled to ask the Government what is their policy on this question, which they have over and over again declared to be one of first-rate importance. I say that the position taken up by the Government is indefensible. As I understand it, those leaders of the Government who are most concerned with and have had largest experience in Irish affairs admit that justice is on our side, and that the whole life of Ireland is warped and injured by the present system, in support of which we are now called upon to vote money. That is the opinion of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, of the First Lord of the Treasury, and the present Chief Secretary, and others, who have had any experience, or are or were responsible for the government of Ireland. But while they fully admit that, and have all along admitted it, they are drifting on in this extraordinary fashion. They say that, being a responsible Government, and admitting that it is a question of first-rate importance, they cannot deal with it on ordinary party lines. I say that is not a tolerable position to take, and that no Government ought to be allowed to adhere to it, at all events for a long period of years. They ought to be prepared, it is their duty, and according to all the tradition and practice of English politics, to state frankly to the country, and to the House of Commons, before the next General Election, whether their party and their Ministers are able and willing to grapple with this great question of Irish University Education. If they do not, I do not think they can complain if we dwell strongly on this confession of impotence on their part, as an argument for relegating this question, as well as other great questions of a purely Irish character, to the control of an Irish Legisla-

ture. Great as are the differences which divide the Irish Members on some matters, if you relegated this question to a committee of Irish Members, including all sections, it would be settled by a larger majority than any other question could be settled, because we would have the solid vote of the whole of the Nationalist Members. On this question the Irish Members are in a majority of at least six to one. It is a monstrous oppression that the Irish people should be denied the acquisition of a university education. I say deliberately that in the province of education you cannot inflict a greater penalty, or a greater disablement, than to deny the Irish people the advantages of a university education. If I had to choose to-morrow—I do not say this view is shared by all my colleagues—as to whether I should first get a good system of primary education, or secondary education, or university education, I should without hesitation select university education first. I hold that on this question of education it is essential to build from above downwards, and that the greatest evil a country can labour under is a denial of the highest university education. But when we come to look into the future, what is our hope? In my own experience, during the last fifteen years, this question was retrograded. We brought it to an issue three years ago, but it was limited to debates in the House: and a few weeks ago we were assured that it had made progress. Are the Unionists prepared, in order to maintain the Unionist system, that the Irish Catholics should look forward to a boundless future, denied of the advantages which their Protestant fellow subjects enjoy? I know that this demand of ours will not have the sympathy of a great many Members of this House who habitually act with us in a friendly way. I know perfectly well that they hold strong views, which in my judgment are not sound views, and which cannot be logically held, but they hold them conscientiously, and are tying the hands of the Government on this question. I do not believe the main difficulty arises from the Government benches, but from the benches behind. How can the Government justify their position if they are in favour of religious schools? They invoked our aid to maintain religious teaching in the schools of this country, and because we believed in religious

Mr. Dillon.

teaching in the schools we voted for our opponents, but when the same question is transferred to Irish soil these hon. Gentlemen refuse to support their own Government in conceding the claims of the Irish Roman Catholics. On what logic do those Gentlemen support their action? In England they advocate consistently in season and out of season religious teaching in schools, but when it comes to Ireland, a large section of them take their stand beside the hon. Member for South Belfast, and endeavour to intimidate the Government. In every assistance that is given to the denominational schools we are obliged to admit that there is serious injustice on the whole as regards the children of "non-com.'s" of this country, and many of them have suffered under great difficulties at times, but in Ireland no one can say that anything of that kind is involved. We have made no proposals except the simple proposal of the Government, who have sanctioned the suggestion, that there should be a university in Dublin for Catholics. The First Lord of the Treasury has gone so far as to declare in so many words that if the Unionists cannot settle this grievance their moral claim to govern Ireland is severely shaken. I have always admitted that Irish Catholics owed a debt of gratitude to the First Lord of the Treasury. They fully recognise the right hon. Gentleman's exertions. If hon. Members refer to the speeches and letters of Dr. Hamilton, the best qualified speaker upon the subject, they will find that he points out that such a university is in the interests of higher education, and he urges that so long as the present system is continued the interests of higher education are being sacrificed to the interests of partisanship and religious bigotry. Those of us who have approached this subject from that standpoint and not from the view of religious bigotry, or in a party spirit, have always opposed any agitation to disendow or despoil Trinity College. We have recognised that in Trinity College we possess a great institution of very distinguished history and great traditions, which undoubtedly has done a great deal to uphold in a position of honour in very dark times the name of Ireland in the paths of the higher learning before the world. We are, therefore, not anxious to destroy that institution or to agitate against it, because we want rather to build up than to pull down. But our

patience has been badly rewarded. The Bishops of Ireland at their last meeting declared that if there was further delay in dealing with this grievance they would be compelled to call upon the people of Ireland to inaugurate an agitation against Trinity College. It will be a dangerous position of affairs, and a dangerous thing for this country, when that fiat goes forth. The Church of Ireland is very strong, and Trinity College is very strong, and I should be very sorry to agitate against either; but if the Irish Roman Catholics are driven to despair Trinity College will undoubtedly come down. Justice we will have in obtaining that higher education for our people, which we have longed for and which we have fought for from the remote periods of our history. So that it may come about that owing to the perversity on your part, and the stupidity which always obtains in dealing with Ireland, you may bring on Trinity College great misfortune, and drag down education in Ireland to a lower level than that at which it at present stands. You have Mahomedan Colleges, and that does not trouble your conscience in the least. There is a project, preposterous to my mind, to establish a great college at Khartum in which Christianity is not to be taught; but when the English people are asked to place the Irish Roman Catholics on a level of equality with the other portions of the United Kingdom, and to grant an endowment, their consciences rise against the proposal. I warn the Government that before next election they will be forced to make a more specific declaration in this matter, and that if they persist in protestations of impotence they will thereby give a great impetus to the demand for Home Rule.

MR. PERKS (Lincolnshire, Louth) thought that the Irish had some ground of complaint against the Government in respect that they were led to hope, from communications by subterranean channels, that a Unionist Government would deal with Roman Catholic University education.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): I never made any such communication.

MR. PERKS was quite aware that the Chief Secretary believed that the allegation was unfounded, but it was not.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR : I believe it to be entirely unfounded.

MR. PERKS : That was not the opinion of the hon. Member for East Mayo.

MR. DILLON : When I referred to communications by subterranean and irregular channels, I had in my mind, for one thing, a well-remembered speech of the hon. Member for South Tyrone before the election of 1892, when he declared to the electors that if a Unionist Government was returned the subject would be dealt with.

MR. PERKS, continuing, said at all events the unholy alliance seemed to have come to an end, or it would come to an end when his Irish friends thoroughly appreciated the fact that they would get nothing from Her Majesty's Government. Nonconformists were opposed to any scheme of Roman Catholic University education, because it was no part of the duty of the community to give money for religious instruction. How absurd it was for Irish Members to argue that English Nonconformists had no right to express an opinion upon Irish religious questions, when they were the very men who came forward to help the Government to saddle upon English Nonconformists an obnoxious system of elementary education ! This question was no nearer a solution than it was years ago. A Liberal Government, supported as it was to such a large extent by the Nonconformists of England, Scotland, and Wales, would never consent to establish and endow a Roman Catholic University for Ireland.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) : It may be regrettable that the people of Ireland are not Dissenters—not even Wesleyan Methodists; but they are not, and, being in the main either Catholics or Presbyterians, they have somewhat different views on the education question from those of my hon. friend; and if they have the right to differ on religion, surely they are entitled to differ with regard to a question with which religion is inextricably mixed up—namely, the particular form of university education. My hon. friend is still angry with the part the Irish Members took on the voluntary schools question; but he has

apparently forgotten that our attitude was largely regulated by the fact that there is a very considerable Catholic population in this country, and that the legislation of the Government dealt not only with their educational position, but also with their strongest and profoundest religious convictions. We should have been untrue to our convictions if we had not stood up for the rights of conscience of our own people in supporting the educational policy of Her Majesty's Government. I desire to discuss the question from a non-partisan point of view. I myself am an old student and graduate of Queen's College, Galway, and whatever poor attempts I have made with regard to education were largely owing to that college. I desire to state the good as well as the bad side of these colleges. Let me first say that in Ireland the university system has this enormous advantage over the university system in this country—that the colleges are brought home to the doors of the poor. I certainly should not have had the least chance of getting a university education if I had been born in this country; therefore, I hold that one of the first things we must consider if we are to bring the university system within reach of the people is that we should have universities largely distributed over the country. I desire to bear testimony to the extraordinary ability, and to the genius even, of some of the men who were at the head of the Queen's Colleges. I am glad to note that Professor D'Arcy Thompson is still there, and I must say that whatever love I have for literature I largely owe to the fact that I had the happiness and privilege of being one of that gentleman's pupils. The men who formed the Queen's Colleges formed the idea that by bringing together the youth of different classes and creeds and races at the most susceptible period of their lives they would raise up another and a broader-minded generation of Irishmen, and get over the racial and religious difficulties. This is the idea of some; others have different views. They think that every means should be adopted for undermining the faith of the majority of the Irish people. Have their ideas been realised? Splendid buildings have been erected and equipped; and yet they do not touch the merest fringe of the people. What is the use of these splendid buildings and of the

broad and generous views on which they are founded, if the people for whom they are intended obstinately remain outside? It is preposterous that at this time of day we should be discussing the question whether a nation, predominantly and intensely Catholic, should not have the system of education which it desires because the Protestants of England do not think it good for them. If that is not religious bigotry and intolerance I am unable to understand the meaning of the words. The hon. Member demanded that because he was Protestant and England was Protestant, Ireland should not have Catholic education.

MR. PERKS : I never said anything of the sort. You can have as much Catholic education as you like, but not at the public expense.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR : I welcome the interruption. A large amount of what in its essence is Protestant education is maintained at the public expense in connection with Dublin University. Therefore we have this extraordinary contradiction in Ireland—that Protestantism, the religion of the minority and of the rich, is endowed at the expense of the State, while the education of the Catholic majority is left without any State aid. It has been suggested that we should level down by spreading the endowments of Trinity College over the whole of Ireland, but that is a policy that would be as bitterly opposed by Protestants as by Catholics in Ireland. I would further point out to the hon. Member that we have more distinctly and truly Catholic education in this country, amid the Protestant majority, than we have in Ireland.

MR. PERKS : University education ?

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR : No, but in the elementary schools. Is it not grotesque that the liberty which we give to Catholics in Protestant England we refuse in Ireland? The Queen's Colleges, I admit, have done a great deal of good so far as education is concerned, but I trust before the close of this Parliament, in which those in favour of a close union of religion and education are in such an overwhelming majority, Ireland may be no longer left with this grievance unreformed, and that that country, which is rich only in

the ability of her sons, will not be allowed to see two more generations pass without enjoying the supreme advantage of university education.

*MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS : I do not complain of the hon. Member for East Mayo that he has availed himself of the opportunity to make an impassioned and able appeal on behalf of Ireland for the creation of a Roman Catholic University. It seems to me that after the declaration of the Duke of Devonshire in another place it required something to rehabilitate the question in this House. What I complain of is that the hon. Member has endeavoured to convince the House, not to-night, but on a former occasion, that nearly all the public bodies in this country are in favour of the demand : in fact, the statements which he made on a former occasion would have led the Committee to suppose that it only required a little more courage on the part of the present Government, and then a Roman Catholic University would soon come into existence. The hon. Member has conspicuously left out of account the opposition he must encounter at the hands of the Nonconformists of this country. I can confirm the statements which have been made by my hon. friend the Member for Louth in regard to the unanimity, as well as the strength, of the feeling which exists among the Nonconformists of this country in regard to this question. They are resolved that, whatever an Irish Parliament may do, should one ever come into existence, they will resist to the utmost any attempt on the part of the Imperial Parliament to create such a university. The hon. Member for East Mayo and the hon. Member for the Scotland Division argued as though there were not two sides to the question, and no doubt they think Nonconformists a narrow, bigoted and intolerant set of persons. In my opinion it is quite possible for Nonconformists to defend and to vindicate their position by an array of arguments which is entitled to some respect. I assume the House will not devote another evening to this question, especially as in less than three hours the guillotine is to fall on all the remaining Votes in Supply. I wish, however, to refer to one remark of the hon. Member for East Mayo. The hon. Member has represented the opponents of this scheme as being ready ruthlessly to

sacrifice the interests of higher education. On the contrary, the opponents of this project think that they are safeguarding the interests of higher education by offering resistance to any of the proposals which would put university education in the hands of ecclesiastics of the Roman Catholic Church.

MR. DILLON: We have never made any such proposal.

*MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS: The First Lord of the Treasury, in a very notable speech which he made on a former occasion, did two things; however, he failed to do some other things. He made it quite clear to me, if it had not been made clear before, that a sectarian university is a contradiction in terms. He submitted to the House certain safeguards and restrictions the object of which was to mitigate, if not to put an end to, Protestant opposition to this proposal. But he did not say, from the beginning of his speech to the end, that the scheme which he then adumbrated had received the consent of the heads of the Irish Church. For aught we know to the contrary, if the Government were to introduce a Bill framed in accordance with the speech of the right hon. Gentleman, that proposal would be rejected by the heads of the Roman Catholic Church. The right hon. Gentleman, with all his desire to provide safeguards and restrictions, did not for a moment suggest that the government of the university should be otherwise than in the hands of the heads of the Roman Catholic Church, or of members of the Roman Catholic Church, lay or ecclesiastic. I do not remember that the right hon. Gentleman went so far as to suggest that the governing body of the university should be a mixed body. If a Catholic University is to be in the hands of ecclesiastics, it follows as a matter of course that the government of that university will be in accordance, as far as possible, with the views of the ecclesiastics. They will put the interests of the ecclesiastics first, and the interests of education second. I venture to express the opinion that no scheme for the creation of an Irish Roman Catholic University will be accepted by the Roman Catholic Church unless it gives to it sole control over its management. That, I contend, is a contradiction

Mr. Carvell Williams.

in terms. A university, to be worthy of its name, must be unsectarian and comprehensive. I desire to enter my caveat against the assumption of the hon. Member for East Mayo, that only a few and very insignificant number of persons are opposed to the scheme which he so ardently advocates.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): The hon. Member for Mansfield states that the Catholics in this House regard the Nonconformists of England as a narrow, bigoted lot of persons. In my opinion, however, there is no difference in principle between the point of view from which Nonconformists look at this educational problem and that from which Catholics look at it. Nonconformists are in favour of lay education in the public schools, because they are so small a body that they could not have schools of their own, and because, also, they are afraid that if religion were taught in schools it would be the religion of the Established Church, and that their children would be saturated and swamped in the views of episcopacy and establishment. Consequently they do as a minority what Catholics in Ireland do as a majority. Nonconformists will not have schools supported by the State for their children with what I believe is called a common denominator of Christianity—something that all believe in, such as the devil and hell. Animated by that spirit, Nonconformists cannot see any other means of preventing their children getting submerged in Episcopalian Protestantism except by demanding a purely lay education. Will anyone tell me that if in the morning England were to wake up Nonconformist, or half-Nonconformist, every Nonconformist minister and every Nonconformist chapel and conventicle would not at once insist on beating the drum in favour of sectarian schools? (Opposition cries of "No.") What do I say to that denial? I say, "Sour grapes." You wish to protect your children from the contagion of Episcopalian Protestantism, and you say, "We will insist on having schools in which no religion at all shall be taught, but merely the dry bones and skeletons." The Catholics look at the matter from exactly the same point of view, but they approach it from a different standpoint. The Catholics say, "Religion is so important to us, our faith is so dear to us, that we would rather have no

education at all than that our children should be taught in Protestant schools." That is our position. You want the education first, and in order that your children may get the education, you say, "Oh, let religion go and be hanged." That is really what it comes to. You say, "We will have an undenominational Christianity." We say, "We will have our children taught their religion, even though they are taught nothing else." That being so, we have refused to go into those schools which are Protestant. You send your children to these schools, though you know they are Protestant, taking all the risks of infection, as you believe it to be. Contrast your position in denying us in Ireland this education. Within a stone's-throw of this House you will find that the poor, by their pence, have not only erected a temple of God, but have provided a little school where they keep themselves apart, having their own faith and their own masters and their own education. Compare that position with those who are able to get a million guineas from Methodism in the course of six or eight months, and ask yourselves which is the nobler position, and which is the greater or the poorer. What is our position in Ireland, where the Catholics are not in a minority, but in a majority? We claim that if we had the country in our own hands we would oppress no religion, but would give equally to each what was meet to its demands in the matter of religion. And we are so animated with the desire of keeping our children pure and undefiled from a faith in which we do not believe, that we will abstain from sending them into schools where that religion is taught. It is said that if we have this university we must get it, but not at the public expense. Will any man show me how a university education can be had in Ireland except at the public expense? I am old enough to remember—though it is thirty years ago now—how the Catholic bishops went begging and craving to this House—for what? They did not ask you then for a university education at the public expense, they asked you merely for a charter. They said, "Give us a charter for our universities." But Protestant England—though the Catholics did not ask for a penny, but only for a roll of parchment and a bit of sealing-wax upon it—

refused the Catholic bishops and the people of Ireland that charter. Therefore it is idle at this time of day to suggest that we should not do this at the public expense, when the first essential of a university is that it should get State recognition of some sort. The hon. Member opposite turns the argument the other way. I am bound to say I think the position of Nonconformists in this matter towards us is entirely different from the position of the hon. Member for South Belfast. I believe the Nonconformists of England are not bigoted. I believe they desire to extend us this right. But they feel that if they do so they would be cutting away the ground from under their own position in England in relation to their own claims. It is not that they would seek to deny us our rights, but they are afraid of inflicting an injury to their own position. I respectfully say there is no reason why we should be sacrificed because of their political or religious necessities. The hon. Member for South Belfast is animated by an entirely different view in his opposition to a Catholic university education. His position is that the Pope and the Scarlet Lady are practically Siamese twins. It has been said the difference between a Calvinistic Presbyterian and a Presbyterian proper, was that the Calvinistic Presbyterian believed that the Catholic was destined to be damned, whereas the Presbyterian proper believed that he would be damned anyhow. I do not know whether the hon. Member for South Belfast occupies one or both of those positions. To-night he turns round and says in two or three interruptions, "Oh, but your Pope allows you to send your children to Oxford and Cambridge." But what is the position? The Catholics in England are in a minority, and a very small minority. Those who acquire higher university education are generally the sons of people of high lineage and of large means, who can afford not only to pay for this university education, but to pay for the conditions which the Pope has prescribed as ancillary to their children going to Oxford or Cambridge, namely, that they shall pay for residence in a hall or college presided over by some dignitary or ecclesiastic of the Catholic Church; so that, although they are at Oxford and Cambridge, they are at the same time under strict supervision so far as religious education is concerned. But with regard

to elementary schools, wherever Catholics are sufficiently numerous they maintain a school, and therefore it is idle to contend that the case is the same. In Ireland there is a further reason, and one which does credit both to the Pope and to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. I read recently an account of a visit to Ireland of a Protestant dignitary, and he was describing the difference between the religious life of the Irish and the English Protestant Churches. He said that it seemed to him that the Protestantism taught in Ireland was of such a wholly different character as to be almost a different religion. For 300 years has not the object of Trinity College been to subvert the faith and to sap the integrity of the Catholic Church? The whole system had that object, and the Education Code was established with the same view; and, as the hon. Member for the Scotland Division said, so recently as the days of Archbishop Whateley there was an absolute confession under the hand of those who established the system that its object was proselytism and the perversion and subversion of the faith of the Catholic Church. Therefore, for my part, even though the Pope had not prescribed these conditions, I would approach the question of going to Oxford or Cambridge from an entirely different point of view—and for this reason. As a rule, Englishmen care very little about religion. In Oxford or Cambridge I am quite satisfied that the professors do not care a dump of what religion a man is, and the last thing any of them would seek to do would be to pervert the mind or attack the faith of any gentleman under their control. That comes of the liberality of thought which prevails in this country; that comes because you have all your political problems settled in this country; that comes from the ingrained and long descended habit of thought which has been cultivated in Tory and Liberal circles for generations. But is it the same in Ireland? In the opinion of the Member for South Belfast the Battle of the Boyne only occurred yesterday. He is as militant over those dead bones and feels as keenly about the matter as though the bloodstains were still fresh. That is the opinion which prevails, and, forsooth, we are to send our children to be instructed by a professoriate which is mainly manned by gentlemen holding such opinions. I remember

hearing it said a long time ago that a distinguished surgeon in Trinity College when giving his lectures on anatomy, commenced by saying, especially if Catholics were present, "Gentlemen, I have dissected many subjects, but I have never yet come across the human soul." These things spread and percolate amongst the Catholic population. There is an instinctive dread—it may be unreasonable, but there is an instinctive dread—amongst the masses of the people of Ireland, that the object for which Queen Elizabeth founded Trinity College is still in vogue, even in the days of Queen Victoria—viz., the subversion of the Catholic people. If the Nonconformists are so anxious for equal education amongst all people in Ireland, why is it that from these benches we do not have continual motions for the destruction of the Divinity School at Trinity College? I never hear the hon. Member for Mansfield, or the hon. Member for Louth, get up to ballot for a Tuesday in order to attack this abominable system, under which thousands of pounds of public money has been devoted to sending forth youths equipped in Episcopal doctrine to act as the clerics of Protestant ascendancy in Ireland. I have never heard them say a word about it. They are quite satisfied that this Divinity School should prevail there. ("No.") I have no doubt the hon. Member who says "No" is such an iconoclast that if he could, without any great trouble of body or mind, pull down even Episcopalian Protestantism, he would pronounce an opinion in that sense, but we see no active efforts on the part of the Church militant on this side of the House to destroy the form of the Church militant. They are quite satisfied to allow it to remain, and, speaking for myself, I also am quite satisfied. I do not desire for one moment to deprive them of this. For my part, I never saw much good derived from the disestablishment of the Church of Ireland. I think it was rather rudely attacked, and the question was very stupidly handled. As far as I am concerned, if the Protestants of Ireland desire to have their Divinity School at Trinity College, so long as I and my children are not asked to attend it, let them have it. What do we ask? Here are we supplying you £8,000,000 of money, some of which is to go to the

South Pole looking for icebergs, some to establish an observatory on the top of Ben Nevia, some for shooting the Boers, some for providing an open door in China, some to keep up Buddhism and Hindooism, some to create a college in favour of Mahomedanism in some part of Africa. What do we want? We want about as much money as would build a battleship in order to start this system. It is our own money we ask for. We do not ask for your money. You rob us of £3,000,000 every year, according to the Report of your own Commission. You pack the jury, and then quarrel with the verdict. It has now come to this, that one House will not allow us to found a university, and the other House will not allow us to drain our sewers. It is to that position we are brought to-night in this temple of British liberty. We must not have a university, we cannot even have a corporation; we cannot manage our cattle. Although the Catholics of Ireland have to contend under these unequal conditions, and have to come over here to your Parliament to look after the wants and grievances of their country, yet you hope at the same time to maintain loyalty in the

hearts of the Irish people. When we advocate things that do not affect the Empire or the union, but which would enable our young men to enter your Civil Service, and to obtain distinction through the methods of education, you have some Protestant scruple which is to debar us, and keep us in such a condition as if emancipation had never taken place. Under these circumstances, I say the Emancipation Act is a fraud. The people of Ireland have this small demand. It is a demand which they have persisted in for generations—I may say for centuries—and considering that it is not yet more than eighty or ninety years since you compelled them to go abroad, not merely for religious education, but secular, I do think it is a remarkable thing that in the closing days of this century a sum of one or two millions of money should be denied by this House, in the day of £100,000,000 Budgets, to enable the Irish people to receive that higher education in accord with the system in which they believe, and in satisfaction of their consciences.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 169; Noes, 26. (Division List, No. 339.)

AYES.

Aird, John
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arrol, Sir William
Asher, Alexander
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline Fitzroy
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Billson, Alfred
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Boulnois, Edmund
Bousfield, William Robert
Broadhurst, Henry
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Caldwell, James
Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
Carlile, William Walter
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.)
Channing, Francis Allston

Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Clough, Walter Owen
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
Curzon, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Sir Horatio L. (Chath'm)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir J. P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, William Theodore
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir W. Hart
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fenwick, Charles
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
FitzWygram, General Sir F.
Flannerry, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Fry, Lewis
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (C. of Lond.)

Gibbs, Hon. V. (St. Albans)
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gilliat, John Saunders
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. George's)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
Gull, Sir Cameron
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. Wm.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale
Hedderwick, Thomas Charles H.
Hermon-Hodge, Robert Trotter
Hoare, E. Brodie (Hampstead)
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Johnstone, William (Belfast)
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Corn)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn- (Swans.)
Lloyd George, David
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverpool)
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Macartney, W. G. Ellison

Macdonna, John Cumming
 Maclure, Sir John William
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 Maddison, Fred.
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Monk, Charles James
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Moss, Samuel
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Perks, Robert William
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert

Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Round, James
 Runciman, Walter
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, W. (Derbyshire)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Souttar, Robinson
 Spicer, Albert
 Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Steadman, William Charles

Stirling-Maxwell, Sir J. M.
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Ure, Alexander
 Valentia, Viscount
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, J. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warde, Lt.-Col. C.E. (Kent)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, J. Carvell (Notts)
 Williams, Jos. Powell (Birm.)
 Wilson, H. J. (York, W. R.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E.R. (Bath)
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Cameron, Sir Chas. (Glasgow)
 Crilly, Daniel
 Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley
 Harwood, George
 Healy, T. M. (N. Louth)

Hogan, James Francis
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kilbride, Denis
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Donnell, Dr. M. A. (Queen's C)
 M'Dermott, Patrick
 M'Leod, John
 Molloy, Bernard Charles

Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Connor, J. (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Dillon and Captain
 Donelan.

CLASS V.

19. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £227,335, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Expenses of Her Majesty's Embassies and Missions Abroad, and of the Consular Establishments Abroad and other Expenditure chargeable on the Consular Vote."

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: At this time of the evening, with the shadow of the guillotine hanging over us, there is a desire to discuss as many Votes as we can before the closure, and I shall therefore be very brief in the remarks I propose to make. I gave notice of my intention to move two reductions—to reduce the salary of Sir Arthur Hardinge as Consul-General for Zanzibar, and also on another item to reduce the salary of the same gentleman in respect of British East Africa—but for the convenience of the Committee I intend to take the two proposals together, and move a reduction

of the entire Vote. In regard to Zanzibar all we have to say really is that the pace at which emancipation is proceeding there is not, in our opinion, sufficiently rapid for the honour of the country, and also that the emancipation which has been effected has been accompanied by conditions which we think are in some degree disgraceful. But I shall not dwell upon the Zanzibar portion of the case. As is well known, we believe that the great majority of the slaves in Zanzibar, most of whom are brought from what has now become a British possession, are illegally held in defiance of the proclamations of the Sultan of Zanzibar issued from time to time under our instructions. In respect of British East Africa certain new facts have come to our knowledge since this matter was last mentioned in the House. Many of us have had an opportunity of meeting the gentleman who is at the head of the Primitive Methodist Mission, where certain incidents occurred that have previously been brought to the knowledge of the House. The Foreign Office have on this question somewhat reverted to their earlier attitude, and we have some complaint against

the Under Secretary for having taken up, under the suggestion of Sir Arthur Hardinge, a *non possumus* attitude with regard to any further change. At one moment the late Under Secretary very frankly admitted that the Foreign Office had changed their views. When we produced the warrants by which persons have been returned into slavery by British courts the Foreign Office stated that they had been entirely unaware of the practice of British courts in respect to returning fugitive slaves, and the late Under Secretary stated that under instructions which were given by the Government on the opinion of the Attorney-General, the Foreign Office was going to introduce a complete change of system. Now, Sir, after careful discussion with the gentleman to whom I have referred, all of us who have seen him are as convinced of his perfect truthfulness as we are of that of Bishop Tucker, who originally brought this matter to our knowledge, and I am sure Sir Arthur Hardinge shares that view as to the absolute truthfulness and good faith of the gentleman in question. What does he state? He tells us that besides the Kombe case, there have been other instances of the same description. For instance, one of his mission men was sent to prison in June, 1898, on a charge of luring away slaves from their owners, and facts which have been brought to our knowledge with regard to that charge go to show that that is one of those cases where the House of Commons are quite unaware of what is being done in their name by British courts in British East Africa. As regards the case which was previously brought to the knowledge of the House, the Kombe case, the Under Secretary made certain statements which, according to our present information, are quite opposed to the real facts of the case, as we thought they were at the time they were made, on the information then before us. This is a case, as the Committee will remember, of the return into slavery by the action of a British court of a person who had been ten years in freedom. That person was sent back by British authority to an Arab master, who had no means whatever of recovering that slave but for the intervention of the British court. After investigation we found that Mr. Lloyd, who tried the case, was a finance official, and that he had no experience as a magistrate, that he was entirely ignorant of the native tongue

and absolutely dependent on his Arab interpreter. I need hardly say that the Government ought to view with the greatest suspicion the action of a British court in British East Africa, where the legal status of slavery has not yet been abolished, when it involves the return into slavery of persons who have been free for over ten years, after a hearing before such a magistrate as I have described. On March 21st the Under Secretary made a statement with regard to this case in which he said that these slaves made no objection to returning to their master, that they were desirous of doing so in order to get food, and the master brought the matter into court as he wished to get a formal declaration of his legal right to their services in return for subsistence. The Attorney-General, speaking on that occasion, stated that these three persons were willing to return to their master. All I can say is that, after most careful investigation, we believe that this gentleman's denial that those are the real facts of the case is one which the Committee may accept. That is all I wish to say with regard to the matter, except that further inquiry into the Indian law leads us entirely to maintain our contradiction of the assurance of the Under Secretary that the state of things in British East Africa is as good in respect of the recognition of slavery as it was in India immediately after 1843. The state of things in India then was very similar to that existing in the colony of Lagos, which was defended by the Secretary of State for the Colonies a day or two ago as being virtually equivalent to the total abolition of the legal status of slavery, and we maintain our view that the Under Secretary cannot justify his opinion that the state of things in India in 1843 was less good than that prevailing in British East Africa. I beg to move.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That a sum, not exceeding £277,135, be granted for the said service."—(Sir Charles Dilke.)

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MR. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): It is only out of respect to the right hon. Gentleman that I rise to reply. The whole subject.

was discussed on the last occasion for three or four hours, and not a single new fact has been brought out this evening by the right hon. Gentleman. He himself said he would not discuss the question of Zanzibar, and then he said the process of emancipation ought to proceed more quickly. He has not given us any new cases, nor has he produced any new facts, except that the opinion which Sir Arthur Hardinge gave us as the result of his investigations, and which he gave publicly in his official position, was not borne out by a certain individual who has been over here, and whom the right hon. Gentleman has seen. I have seen neither that individual nor any information tendered by him in writing in support of his statements, and at this moment I am not in possession of anything but just the fact that even now these persons who were sent back to their master deny that they made any objection to that return. I have not the least doubt that there is some difference of opinion as to the facts, but on the other hand I am convinced that the despatch of Sir Arthur Hardinge shows that he had taken great pains to inform himself of the actual state of the facts. The statements made were, we believe, accurately reported to the presiding magistrate by the interpreter, and I do not think it is possible to provide that the English judge should always have a knowledge of the native tongue so as to be able to dispense with an interpreter. In a great number of courts all over the world that is not done, and I am quite certain there is no desire to do any injustice in the matter. Every effort was made to give these persons an opportunity of objecting if they desired to do so, or if they had any fear about returning to their master; they did not propose to lodge any objection at that time; it was found two or three months afterwards that one of these individuals had left his master again, and another had taken service elsewhere. I never felt that this was a particularly strong case on which to attack the government of Sir Arthur Hardinge. I only express the desire we have that the fullest consideration should be given in all these cases, and that escaped slaves should not be returned to their masters except in cases in which it is proved that we should otherwise be breaking the pledges which were given at the time the territory was taken over.

Mr. Brodrick.

MR. SYDNEY GEDGE (Walsall): I am sorry this matter has been brought to such a very small issue as whether or not these so-called slaves were willing to go back to their master. It seems very strange, if they were willing, that their master should require to go to the court to make them. It is not a question of willingness or unwillingness; the whole question is whether, in any country in which justice is administered in a court in the name of Her Majesty, the judge or magistrate is seriously to consider whether a particular person belongs to himself or to anybody else. I do not suppose for a moment that in such a territory as Zanzibar we can immediately put down slavery, but putting down slavery by force is one thing, and recognising slavery is another. When we take possession of a country we may leave the laws undisturbed for a time, but it does not follow that our courts ought to enforce those laws. The enforcement ought to be left to the natives themselves. That is a very different thing from lending the aid of our courts and magistrates to enforce the laws of slavery. This has been mentioned over and over again, and I must say it is intolerable that we should have cases arising time after time in which the old saying, that the moment a slave touched British territory he was free, no longer holds good, but that we should have courts of ours putting laws into operation in order that people may be returned to what are called their "owners." I cannot believe in anybody being the owner of somebody else, and I am sure the Members on the Front Bench hold the same view, and I want them to say that this intolerable state of things should not exist a single day longer.

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester): I think we have some cause of complaint in that the Under Secretary has not taken this matter more seriously. It is not sufficient to ignore a statement simply because it is a repetition of a previous statement. If it was true when first made, and still remains true, it requires an answer. I heard a short time ago, from an undoubted authority, that this law was being administered in Zanzibar in a manner most calculated to prevent it having the effect desired or intended by its authors—that every opposition was placed in the way of poor people in remote parts of the country getting to a magis-

trate's court in order to lay bare their case against the slave-owner. These are the allegations, that actually under British government and British authority obstacles are placed in the way of these poor people taking the necessary legal procedure to liberate themselves from their slavery. The right hon. Gentleman ought to say that this is repugnant to British instincts, feeling and sentiment, and that he, as representing the Foreign Office in this House, would take a note of the statement of the right hon. Baronet, and do his best to see that the law is enforced with more energy and with more convenience to the persons seeking this redress than has been the case in the past. The status of slavery ought altogether to be abolished, and the right hon. Gentleman ought to tell us that by the time we reassemble next year much will have been done to meet the views of the people who take a great interest in this subject.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON (Middlesbrough): I have another subject to which I wish to call attention on this Vote. I want to refer, not to the slaves in Zanzibar, but to a class of men who are little better than slaves, and who receive very hard treatment from the hands of the present Government, and I want to point out that the Foreign Office is largely responsible for the treatment received. In 1897 I sent a report to the Board of Trade with regard to the position of seamen who are engaged and discharged at the consular shipping offices abroad, and I pointed out that seamen were assaulted in the offices of Her Majesty's consuls, that they were robbed in those offices, and that it was impossible for any seaman to engage in the ports of the United States without the intervention of "crimps" and other low characters, and that the consular officers allowed these "crimps" free access into the consular offices. I stated in that report that I myself had witnessed in New York as many as twenty or twenty-five of these "crimps" in the shipping office where the men were being engaged and discharged. I also stated that a number of shipowners in this country had entered into contracts with "crimps" in New York for the engagement of men, that these "crimps" charged the seamen as much as £3, £4, or £5 as a shipping fee, and that shipowners shared

these fees with the "crimps." A number of Members thought my language was very extravagant; they said that the charges I made were very serious indeed, and they were inclined to doubt my assertions. However, in May, 1898, a Report was moved by a Member of this House in regard to the condition of affairs in the consuls' offices abroad, and I find in that Report that Her Majesty's consuls, themselves, in the United States, fully bear out every statement I made. Her Majesty's consul for Philadelphia said that in ports in the United States a system of contracting exists between the shipping agents and the owners in the United Kingdom for the supply of seamen; in which the blood money is even higher than I have mentioned, as much as twenty dollars being deducted from the seamen's advance. The agreements usually terminate at the final port of discharge in the United Kingdom, the United States, or the Continent of Europe, but in most cases the words "United States" are required by the master, or his agent, to be struck out by the consul. So that, should the vessel return to those waters, the shipowner can demand from one to three months' pay from the men for their discharge; that is to say, if a man engages in one of the ports of the United States, and makes a voyage, returning to the United States, he has paid twenty dollars to this "crimp" for the privilege of getting the employment; he cannot get employment unless he pays that fee, so he pays this twenty dollars for a start, makes a voyage of three or four months, and that ship returns to port. The captain wants to get rid of his crew, so he gives them all kinds of work to do, and no money to spend; and when, as a result, the men ask to be discharged, the captain says, "I will discharge you, but you must pay a month's or two months' wages, and in some cases three months' wages."

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member must confine himself on this Vote to a criticism of the conduct of Her Majesty's consuls abroad. The general system to which he is referring is not a matter within the discretion of the consuls. Any matter which is within the discretion or power of the consuls, in which he thinks they are acting improperly, he can bring under review.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON: I contend I am fully entitled to discuss anything which appears in this Report.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I do not think that would be right at all. Upon this Vote the hon. Gentleman is entitled to criticise the action of the consuls. If he considers they have not made a proper Report, he can criticise that, but he cannot criticise the system upon which the consuls happen to report.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON: Then, Sir, I will stick to the conduct of the consuls. I have maintained more than once that Her Majesty's consuls could put a stop to these proceedings if they took the matter in hand in a proper manner. I have asked that instructions should be issued by the Government to the consuls, that no one, except the seamen and the master, should be allowed in the consuls' offices when the men are being engaged. It is not a proper thing, when the consuls themselves have admitted that this class of men do fasten themselves on the seamen, that they should be tolerated in the offices of the consuls. Surely there must be something radically wrong when the business of Her Majesty's consuls cannot be conducted without—I would not like to say there is collusion between the consuls and these men, but it is a very improper state of things which exists. The Government have been fully aware of this for over two years. It is not a question of to-day. I have repeatedly raised the question in the House. I have put questions to different Ministers, calling their attention to it. My statements have not been denied; they have been confirmed by the consuls themselves, and yet nothing has been done. There is another matter on which I have to complain of the conduct of the consuls. Very often voyages terminate in foreign ports. Under the Merchant Shipping Act, Sec. 186, it is provided that whenever a seaman is discharged in a foreign port, the owner shall provide that man with a passage home, with maintenance, to the port in the United Kingdom at which he was engaged. That section of the Act has been disputed for a long time, but it is established by the decision of a court of law that that obligation is imposed. It is the duty of Her Majesty's consuls, whenever men are discharged in their

ports, to see that that section of the Act is complied with. But they do not do so. What is more, I have complained of consuls who deliberately place seamen in such a position, that when they commence an action for the recovery of what they are entitled to under this section, by the action of many of the consuls the men are put out of court. There is a section which says that the consul shall insist upon a certain amount of money, which, in his judgment, is sufficient to defray the expenses, being paid down. Take, for instance, Rotterdam or Antwerp. Many of the consuls, when a captain refuses to pay the men's fares and maintenance to the port in the United Kingdom at which they were engaged, say, "You must deposit 10s." Ten shillings only carries a man to the nearest port in the United Kingdom—say Harwich, and from there a man engaged at Cardiff has to pay his fare to the latter place out of his own pocket. If the seaman desires to sue in a court of law for the balance, all the owners have to do is to prove that Her Majesty's consul made an endorsement on the articles of agreement that 10s. was sufficient, and then the man is put out of court, and has no remedy whatever. I do not want Her Majesty's Government to take up the side of the seamen—they can take their own part; but I want instructions to be given to every consular officer abroad that, whenever a seaman is discharged in his port, he will not make an endorsement on the articles that the captain has complied with the Act, unless the seaman is paid his full passage money to the port at which he was engaged, with maintenance money. We are only asking that no obstruction shall be put on our road in a court of law. Only to-day I was in court in connection with a case in which seamen discharged at Marseilles claimed passage to Cardiff, but the captain would only pay to London. We are now told that the captain complied with the requirements of the consul, and that the latter has written a letter stating that he asked that the men's fares should be paid to London only, and that the men were perfectly satisfied, and the consul is to be called as a witness against the men. Another section of the Act provides that where the captain or owner fails to pay the passages of the men to the port of engagement, the consul himself can pay, and recover the money as a debt due from the owners.

Where is the protection for a British seaman if the consul takes the side of employers as against the men? That seems to me to be a just cause of complaint. I have repeatedly called attention to these matters, and I hope the right hon. Gentleman, the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, will see that the law is carried out. We do not ask for any special privileges. I wrote to the Board of Trade, informing them that it was our intention to place our own agents on the continent, so that wherever a captain refused to pay fares back to the port of engagement, our agents could pay and afterwards recover the amount as a debt. I got a letter from the Board of Trade, which no doubt came from the Foreign Office, stating that they could not see their way to issue any instructions. I hope, however, the Foreign Office will now issue instructions that crimps and robbers be kept off consular premises.

*MR. BRODRICK: The hon. Member has made a speech containing a considerable indictment of the officers in the consular service, but he did not give me the slightest notice that he was bringing forward this question, or any opportunity to study the points he was about to make. The hon. Member made several sweeping charges without supporting them by individual cases of fact. With regard to one point to which the hon. Member alluded, viz., the Consular Office at New York, into which he says crimps find their way and ought to be excluded, only a few days ago, in answer to a question on the subject, I said that the point was under consideration at the present moment. The hon. Member represented in vivid terms the scenes which take place in consular offices, but we are informed that disturbances are of very rare occurrence; and in this matter, as in the other, it would be desirable if the hon. Gentleman were more definite.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON: I have many cases, but I did not desire to take up the time of the Committee.

*MR. BRODRICK: I do not think the hon. Gentleman can really be under the impression—certainly, we are not under the impression—that there is any desire on the part of our consular officers to deprive any of our seamen of the protection to which they are entitled. The

Government have no such desire, and if the hon. Gentleman can produce any cases of that kind, we will take care that they are properly investigated, but I do not think general statements are very helpful to us. The hon. Gentleman takes great interest in these matters; we take an interest in them also; and I may truly say that since I have been at the Foreign Office the hon. Gentleman has not addressed to me one single word of complaint with reference to consular officers.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON: I sent the complaints to the Board of Trade.

*MR. BRODRICK: If my right hon. friend the President of the Board of Trade were here, I think he would say that in those cases also the hon. Gentleman might have been more definite. I can assure the hon. Gentleman that there is the strongest desire on our part to see that our seamen get the best possible advantage from our consular officers. As the hon. Gentleman knows, it is illegal in the United States to advance money on wages, but I have not the least doubt, as the right hon. Gentleman says, that the law is to some extent evaded, and if he will give us particulars we will gladly take the matter up. I can only say that in every report we have received there is manifest the strongest desire on the part of our consular officers to do the very best they can for our seamen.

MR. MADDISON (Sheffield, Brightside): I think the question raised by the hon. Member for Middlesbrough is one of great importance, and I am quite sure it is through no fault of the right hon. Gentleman himself that he has not been able to give the hon. Member a satisfactory assurance. The right hon. Gentleman complained that no definite details had been given. I quite admit that to a Minister specific instances are of more value than any amount of argument. Well, last year, the hon. Member for Middlesbrough set out at considerable length, and in the minutest detail, charges against the consuls. I take it that this is no charge against the personal conduct of the consuls, but against the bad system. The hon. Member quoted last year, from personal observation, gross cases where the lowest of human kind, crimps, and their attendants, were allowed to go into the British Consular

Office at New York. Not only did the hon. Member draw the attention of the House to these complaints last year, but also the year before, and surely we have a right to complain that these grievances have not been redressed in the course of two years. This is not a question concerning seamen only; it is one of national importance. Very useful reports have been issued by certain consuls, which show most conclusively that these crimps ply their baneful trade in the consular offices, where they have actually got a kind of official standing. It is pointed out in these reports that consuls could, if certain steps were taken, have much greater control over the seamen and the crimps than they now have. Mr. Laidlaw, the British Consul at Portland, Oregon, in his Report, says that a comprehensive Consular Convention should be concluded with the United States, giving the same exclusive jurisdiction as is now enjoyed by the French and German Consuls. That would include power to call upon the local authority for necessary assistance. That is a very fertile field of usefulness for the office the right hon. Gentleman represents. Mr. Laidlaw shows clearly the serious danger menacing British seamen, how great the power of the drinking saloon is, and that, in spite of all warning, the seamen listen to what the crimps say. I believe if this exclusive jurisdiction referred to by Mr. Laidlaw were granted it would effectually cure the worst of the evils complained of. I am sure that in the present temper of the United States, which we all rejoice at, a consular convention might be arrived at, and I hope that matter will be taken up in earnest by the right hon. Gentleman during the recess.

*MR. BRODRICK: I am fully aware of the importance of the subject, and I will undertake that in the course of the next few months the points raised shall be fully considered with the view of seeing what possible action can be taken to cure the evils complained of. The point brought forward more especially by Mr. Laidlaw, who is one of our most active and most excellent officers, will be considered, and although the subject is a very complicated one, I think I can promise the hon. Gentleman that he will have no occasion to raise the question next year.

Mr. Maddison.

MR. BROADHURST: Two points have been strongly urged by my hon. friend the Member for Middlesbrough. In the first place, he referred to the crimps, contending that they ought not to be allowed on the consular premises while contracts were being made between the masters and the seamen. That is a very small point in itself, but it is very great in its effect upon the interests of the seamen, because it leads the seamen to feel that the crimp has some legal standing in the matter of the contract. The other point is that the consuls should be referred to the section of the Act which makes it imperative on the masters of a ship to pay the fare of a sailor back from the foreign port at which he is discharged to the port at which he was engaged. I think the right hon. Gentleman is entitled to complain, as he has done, that no notice was given that this matter would be revived, but I am sure my hon. friend would be the last person to strike where his opponent is off guard.

MR. LOWLES (Shoreditch, Haggerston): I should not have intervened in this Debate but for the fact that I have seen some of the evils complained of in New York, and I am bound to say that no language can exaggerate them. But I rose for the purpose of drawing attention to the valuable suggestions made in the very first Report published in the Blue Book by Consul Fraser, who speaks with special authority on the subject. Consul Fraser sums up his report by this recommendation:

"From a very lengthened experience of the British seaman at American ports, and of the many persons who directly or indirectly make their living out of him, I believe that the first step to be taken, and which will doubtless greatly check desertion in the United States, and at some ports almost entirely eliminate it, is to get rid of the so-called shipping master; and until he has ceased to exist all efforts to stop desertion will, in my opinion, be fruitless."

Then he goes on to make this valuable suggestion:

"I would suggest the establishment, under the supervision of the consul, of a department on similar lines to mercantile marine officers in the United Kingdom. No man should be allowed to be brought to the consulate to be shipped by any person who makes it a business of finding employment for seamen, and he should also be strictly excluded from the office. Advance notes should be issued and paid at the consulate. Should a master desire to have

his crew put on board by an *employé* of the consulate, a charge of not more than 2 dollars for each man would be made for the service. An objection to this cannot well be raised on the ground that it would be an additional burden on the ship, as it is willingly paid at present to persons who perform the same work."

Then he goes on to say :

"A similar department to that to which I have referred was established at the Consulate-General at New York in 1872, under my own supervision, which worked admirably for several years, but, most unfortunately, it had to be discontinued for want of funds."

THE CHAIRMAN : Order, order ! The question which the hon. Member is discussing cannot be discussed under this Vote.

MR. LOWLES : All I want to say is that I believe from my own observation there is not sufficient supervision on the part of the Consul-General at New York. I regard the suggestion of Consul Fraser as a most valuable one, and if his proposal were carried out, and if greater supervision were to be exercised, these evils would very soon cease to exist.

MR. ROBSON (South Shields) : I think much of the mischief has arisen from the consuls acting, in perfect good faith, upon a wrong view of their duties under the Merchant Shipping Act, and only allowing the seaman the bare cost of his passage home without maintenance. The courts, while declaring that view to be wrong, have, at the same time, held that they cannot override the discretion of a consul. The consul is in the position of an arbitrator, from whose decision there is no appeal, and therefore the seaman has no remedy. Accordingly it comes peculiarly within the province of the Foreign Office to instruct the consuls on this point, and then seamen would be relieved of very great injustice and hardship.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.) : The matter to which I desire to call attention is the bearing of consular reports on trade. It is well within the knowledge of those connected with trade that we are far behind other countries in this matter, either because the reports furnished by consuls of other countries are superior to ours, or that the Foreign Office does not take sufficient steps to ventilate these reports. We find that in almost every

country where there is a prospect of a growing trade, the German, Austrian, and Belgian consuls go in for minuter particulars of every class of trade, and that the various Foreign Offices take special steps to place those reports in the hands of the merchants. They have undoubtedly, by these means, cut us out of many markets where we had hitherto more than held our own. As a case in point, I would draw attention to the trade in Turkey, more especially as regards Asia Minor. I find, from the most excellent report of Acting-Consul Massey, that whereas some years ago our trade in a particular part of Turkey was extremely good, it fell away in consequence of events which took place in that quarter of the world. Now trade is about to revive, and the recovery which took place in 1897 has continued. We find that the exports are now £158,000, and the imports over £200,000. This sum, however, might be easily doubled. Prior to 1890 it was considerably larger than it is now. There is every opening for an increase of trade. But why is it this increase does not take place ? Because there is no attempt made on the part of our Government, in conjunction with the consul, to see that proper trade catalogues are furnished, with price lists. The most absurd catalogues are sent out to these countries, furnishing a class of goods which it is altogether outside the power of the inhabitants to buy. It is suggested by the consul to whom I have referred, that a central agency should be established for the collation and distribution of catalogues, and for furnishing practical and useful information for the benefit of those who desire to encourage trade there. At the present time the entire trade is in the hands of a certain number of middlemen, mostly Greeks and Armenians, who are most unscrupulous in their dealing. The English merchant who sends out goods is completely in the hands of these men, who, for a commission of an extra five or six per cent., foist upon the people of this country low-class goods made in Austria and elsewhere. The establishment of a central agency, according to the consul, would not cost more than £2,000, and if the merchants of this country would put their hands in their pockets and pay £5 each, some 400 of them could provide the necessary money. At the present moment the entire trade in

cloth is supplied from Austria. A large merchant in these parts declared that he sent an order to England, but it was not entertained. Another said he could not get a particular cloth.

*THE CHAIRMAN : Order, order ! I do not see how the hon. and gallant Member connects these matters with the Vote. He is criticising the actions of merchants.

CAPTAIN NORTON : I am endeavouring to criticise the action of the Foreign Office, in not taking steps to bring home, by means of consular reports, the condition of our trade, and to distribute these reports amongst the merchants, and I submit that it is in consequence of this attitude that we are losing trade. There is a great opening for a trade of something like £8,000 worth of cloth, as used in one part of Asia Minor. At the present time, however, the whole of this commodity is manufactured in Austria.

*THE CHAIRMAN : Order, order ! The hon. Member is really criticising the action of the merchants in not acting upon the consular report.

CAPTAIN NORTON : My contention is that our consular reports fall distinctly behind those of all other great trading countries, as a consequence of which trade in all out-of-the-way places is passing into the hands of Germans and Belgians. I

should therefore be glad if the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs will say what steps are taken in order to prevent our competitors getting the better of us in these places.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton) : Is it not the fact that the consular reports are in many respects not up to the mark ? I contend that the consular service should be made a real service, as it is in other countries. At present gentlemen are appointed haphazard without any training.

*MR. BRODRICK totally denied the impeachment brought against the consuls by the hon. Member.

MR. BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield) expressed the hope that the right hon. Gentleman would seriously consider the question raised by the hon. and gallant Member for West Newington.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE : I propose to ask the Committee to divide, in consequence of the unsatisfactory reply given by the Under Secretary with regard to slavery in Zanzibar and in British East Africa.

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 80 ; Noes, 174. (Division List, No. 340.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. B. (Clackm.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Billson, Alfred
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Burns, John
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Sir C. (Glasgow)
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Alston
Clough, Walter Owen
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
Dalziel, James Henry
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Fenwick, Charles
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Gedge Sydney
Gourley, Sir E. Temperley
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale.

Captain Norton.

Hazell, Walter,
Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
Hogan, James Francis
Horniman, Frederick John
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
Labouchere, Henry
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
Lewis, John Herbert
Macaleese, Daniel
McDermott, Patrick
M'Leod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Maden, John Henry
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr)
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Oldroyd, Mark

Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Perks, Robert William
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, J. Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robson, William Snowdon
Runciman, Walter
Souttar, Robinson
Steadman, William Charles
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John L. (Leeds, S.)
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, Jos. H. (Middlesbro')
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Charles Dilke and Mr. Broadhurst.

NOES.

Aird, John
 Allsopp, Hon. George
 Arnold, Alfred
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Man)
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barnes, Frederic Gorell
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Bathurst, Hon. A. Benjamin
 Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Bethell, Comander
 Bhowaggee, Sir M. M.
 Bigwood, James
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bond, Edward
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
 Boulnois, Edmund
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Bracey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Butcher, John George
 Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
 Carlile, William Walter
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, E.)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colston, Chas. Ed. H. Athole
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
 Cox, Irwin E. Bainbridge
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Col. Philip Hugh
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir J. P.
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Donkin, Richard Sim
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Finbank, Joseph Thomas

Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzWigram, General Sir F.
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Flower, Ernest
 Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
 Fry, Lewis
 Galloway, W. Johnson
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hon. V (St. Albans)
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. Geo. 's
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury
 Green, W. Raymond (Cambs)
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Hermon-Hodge, R. Trotter
 Hill, Rt. Hn. A. Staveley (Staffs)
 Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampste'd
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Howard, Joseph
 Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
 Jackson, Rt. Hon. W. Lawies
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Jessel, Captain Herbert M.
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Keewick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 Knowles, Lees
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks)
 Lea, Sir T. (Londonderry)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Llewelyn, Sir D. (Swansea)
 Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Liverpool)
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 Maclure, Sir John William
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Manners, Lord Edward Wm. J.
 Maxwell, Rt. Hn. Sir Herbert E.
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham

Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. T.
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbyshire)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxford Uni.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Williams, J. Powell. (Birm.)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcesterah., N.
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Maj. W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke d'Arcy
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

It being after Ten of the clock, the Chairman, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 23rd February last, proceeded to put the Questions necessary to dispose of the outstanding Votes in the Committee of Supply.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

20. Motion made, and Question put, 'That a sum, not exceeding £154,463, be

granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for Grants in Aid of the Expenses of the British Protectorates in Uganda and in Central and East Africa, and under the Uganda Railway Act, 1896."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 206; Noes, 69. (Division List No. 341.)

AYES.

Aird, John
 Allsopp, Hon. George
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Arnold, Alfred
 Aher, Alexander
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manchester)
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. J. B. (Clackm.)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barnes, Frederic Gorell
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Bathurst, Hon. A. Benjamin
 Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Bethell, Commander
 Bhowaggee, Sir M. M.
 Bigwood, James
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bond, Edward
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
 Boulnois, Edmund
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodbrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Butcher, John George
 Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
 Carlile, William Walter
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd)
 Cornwallis, Fienes Stanley W.
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Col. Philip Hugh
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chath'm)
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Donkin, Richard Sim
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes

Fison, Frederick William
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 FitzWygram, General Sir F.
 Flannery, Sir Forcescue
 Flower, Ernest
 Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Fry, Lewis
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond)
 Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. George's)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrewb'ry)
 Greene, W. Raymond. (Cambs.)
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Harwood, George
 Hazell, Walter
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Hermon-Hodge, Robert Trotter
 Hill, Rt. Hn. A. Staveley (Staffs)
 Hoare, Ed. B. (Hampstead)
 Hogan, James Francis
 Houldsworth, Sir W. Henry
 Howard, Joseph
 Hozier, Hon. J. Henry Cecil
 Jackson, Rt. Hn. Wm. Lawies
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Jessel, Capt. Herbert Morton
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 Knowles, Lees
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning. (Corn)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks)
 Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
 Leigh-Bennet, Henry Currie
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Sw'n's)
 Lockwood, Lieut. Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverpool)
 Lorne, Marquis of
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cunningham
 Maclure, Sir John William
 M'Arthur, Chas. (Liverpool)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Mannors, Lord Edw. Wm. J.
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edw. Robert Pacy
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)

More, Robert Jasp. (Shropshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pollock, Harry Frederick
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbyshire)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Hon. Arthur (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir J. M.
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Ox'd Univ.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. Ed. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Usborne, Thomas
 Valentia, Viscount
 Walton, J. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Williams, J. Powell (Birm'g'm.)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. K. (Bath)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Athlerley-Jones, L.
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Billson, Alfred
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Burns, John
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Chas. (Glasgow)
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Crilly, Daniel
 Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Fenwick, Charles
 Gourley, Sir E. Temperley
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-

Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
 Hedderwick, Thomas Charles H
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Jocey, Sir James
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kilbride, Denis
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Dermott, Patrick
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
 Moss, Samuel
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Connor, J. (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)

Perks, Robert William
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
 Roberts, William Snowden
 Runciman, Walter
 Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
 Souttar, Robinson
 Steadman, William Charles
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Ure, Alexander
 Wallace, Robert
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
 Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbro'gh)
 Yoxall, James Henry
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Captain Norton and Mr.
 Pirie.

21. Motion made, and Question put,
 "That a sum, not exceeding £1,000, be
 granted to Her Majesty, to complete the
 sum necessary to defray the Charge which
 will come in course of payment during
 the year ending on the 31st March, 1900,

for a Grant in Aid of the Revenue of the
 Island of Cyprus."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 196 ;
 Noes, 78. (Division List, No. 342.)

AYES.

Aird, John
 Allsopp, Hon. George
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Arnold, Alfred
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Eagot, Cap. J. FitzRoy
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barnes, Frederic Gorell
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
 Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Bethell, Commander
 Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
 Bigwood, James
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bond, Edward
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
 Boulnois, Edmund
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodric, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Butcher, John George
 Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
 Carille, William Walter
 Cavendish, V.C. W. (Derbysh.)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Chelsea, Viscount

Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colston, Chas. E. H. Athole
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Herefd.)
 Cornwallis, Fienes Stanley W.
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Donkin, Richard Sim
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 FitzWygram, General Sir F.
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Flower, Ernest
 Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
 Fry, Lewis
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Gedge, Sydney

Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond)
 Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
 Greene, W. Raymond- (Cambs.)
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert Wm.
 Harwood, George
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
 Hill, Rt. Hn. A. Staveley (Staffs.)
 Hoare, Ed. Brodie (Hampstead)
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Howard, Joseph
 Hozier, Hon. J. Henry Cecil
 Jackson, Rt. Hn. Wm. Lawies
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Keawick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 Knowles, Lees
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Corn)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn- (Sw'n's &

Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 Maclure, Sir John William
 M^r Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 Malcolm Ian
 Manners, Lt. Edward Wm. J.
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Midmay, Francis Bingham
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropsh.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton (A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian

Northcote, Hon Sir H. Stafford
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pollock, Harry Frederick
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir M. W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. T.
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyronne)
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Sandys, Lieut.-Col. T. Myles
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Seobel, Sir Andrew Richard
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbysh.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, E. James (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancashire)

Stirling-Maxwell, Sir J. M.
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Talbot, Rt.Hn.J.G. (Oxford Uni.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Ushorne, Thomas
 Valentia, Viscount
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
 Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
 Asher, Alexander
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Athley-Jones, L.
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. B. (Clackm.)
 Billson, Alfred
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Burns, John
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Crilly, Daniel
 Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Fenwick, Charles
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale
 Hazell, Walter

Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
 Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
 Hogan, James Francis
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, W. (Carnarvonshire)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kilbride, Denis
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Macaleese, Daniel
 McDermott, Patrick
 McLeod, John
 Maddison, Fred
 Maden, John Henry
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Moore, Arthur (Londonderry)
 Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merth'r)
 Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moss, Samuel
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
 Pearson, Sir Weetman D.

Perks, Robert William
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Runciman, Walter
 Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
 Souttar, Robinson
 Steadman, William Charles
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Ure, Alexander
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, J. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd.)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Channing and Captain
 Norton.

22. Motion made, and Question put,
 "That a sum, not exceeding £34,241, be
 granted to Her Majesty, to complete the
 sum necessary to defray the Charge which
 will come in course of payment during
 the year ending on the 31st day of March,

1900, for the Subsidies to certain
 Telegraph Companies."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 197;
 Noes, 84. (Division List, No. 343.)

AYES.

Aird, John
 Allsopp, Hon. George
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Arnold, Alfred
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barnes, Frederick Gorell
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Bethell, Commander
 Bhowanaggee, Sir M. M.
 Bigwood, James
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bond, Edward
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith.
 Boulnois, Edward
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Burdett-Connors, W.
 Butcher, John George
 Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
 Carlile, William Walter
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colston, Chas. Ed. H. Athole
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)
 Cornwallis, Pienness Stanley W.
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chatham)
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Donkin, Richard Sim
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Drucker, A.
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edwd.
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Joseph Thomas

Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 FitzWygram, General Sir F.
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Flower, Ernest
 Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
 Fry, Lewis
 Galloway, Wm. Johnson
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond.)
 Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
 Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. George's)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Green, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
 Greene, W. Raymond (Cams.)
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. W.
 Harwood, George
 Hermon-Hodge, Robert Trotter
 Hill, Rt. Hon. A. Staveley (Staffs.)
 Hoare, Ed. Brodie (Hampstead)
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Howard, Joseph
 Hozier, Hon. Jas. Henry Cecil
 Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 Knowles, Lees
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn)
 Lawrence, W. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swans'a)
 Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (L'pool)
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 Macleure, Sir John William
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Manners, Lord Edward Wm. J.
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 More, Robt. J. (Shropshire)

Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hn. Sir H. Stafford
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pollock, Harry Frederick
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyronne)
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Scoble, Sir Henry Richard
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, E. Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Usborne Thomas
 Valentia, Viscount
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm.)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Maj. W. H.
 Wylvil, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrand and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)
 Asher, Alexander
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Atherley-Jones, L.

Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. B. (Clackm.)
 Billson, Alfred
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling

Broadhurst, Henry
 Burns, John
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Chas. (Glasgow)

Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Crilly, Daniel
 Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Fenwick, Charles
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. John
 Gourley, Sir E. Temperley
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
 Hazell, Walter
 Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Hedderwick, Thos. Chas. H.
 Hogan, James Francis
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace

Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
 Kearley, Hudson, E.
 Kilbride, Denis
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Dermott, Patrick
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Moore, Arthur (Londonderry)
 Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr)
 Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moss, Samuel
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Connor, J. (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Palmer, Sir Chas. M. (Durham)
 Pearson, Sir Weetman D.

Perks, Robert Williams
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Runciman, Walter
 Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
 Souttar, Robinson
 Steadman, William Charles
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Ure, Alexander
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Warner, Thomas C. T.
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersfield)
 Yoxall, James Henry
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES —
 Captain Norton and Mr.
 Pirie.

CLASS I.

23. £4,000, Supplementary, Royal Palaces and Marlborough House.

24. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £130,537, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge

which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Survey of the United Kingdom, and for minor services connected therewith."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 207; Noes, 76. (Division List, No. 344.)

AYES.

Aird, John
 Allsopp, Hon. George
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Arnold, Alfred
 Asher, Alexander
 Atkinson, Right Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. B. (Clackm.)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barnes, Frederic Gorell
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Bethell, Commander
 Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
 Bigwood, James
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bond, Edward
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
 Boulnois, Edmund
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Butcher, John George
 Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
 Carlile, William Walter
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, E. (Hertford, East)
 Cecil, Lord H. (Greenwich)

Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colston, C. E. H. Athole
 Cook, F. L. (Lambeth)
 Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)
 Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley, W.
 Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir J. P.
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Donkin, Richard Sim
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Drucker, A.
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir W. Hart
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Joseph Thomas

Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 FitzWygram, General Sir F.
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Flower, Ernest
 Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Fry, Lewis
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond.)
 Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. John
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. George's)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
 Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. R. W.
 Harwood, George
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
 Hill, Rt. Hon. A. Staveley (Staffs.)
 Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampstead)
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Howard, Joseph
 Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil

Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Joicey, Sir James
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 Knowles, Lees
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Corn)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks)
 Lea, Sir T. (Londonderry)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Llewelyn, Sir D. - (Swansea)
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Liverpool)
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdonna, John Cumming
 Maclure, Sir John William
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Manners, Lord Ed. Wm. J.
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)

More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pollock, Harry Frederick
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, William (Derbysh)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest

Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, E. J. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Ox. U.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Ure, Alexander
 Usborne, Thomas
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm.)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh., N.)
 Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvil, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks. E.)
 TELLERS FOR THE AYES.—
 Sir William Walrod and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Billson, Alfred
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Burns, John
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Crilly, Daniel
 Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Fenwick, Charles
 Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
 Hazell, Walter
 Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
 Hedderwick, Thomas Charles H.
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W. R.)

Horniman, Frederick John
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kilbride, Denis
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
 Lloyd-George, David
 Macaleese, Daniel
 MacDonnell, Dr M. A. (Queen's C)
 M'Dermott, Patrick
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Moore, Arthur (Londonderry)
 Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr)
 Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moss, Samuel
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Palmer, Sir Chas. M. (Durham)
 Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
 Perks, Robert William

Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts John Bryn (Eifion)
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Runciman, Walter
 Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
 Souttar, Robinson
 Steadman, William Charles
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Nott.)
 Wilson, Joseph (Middlesbrough)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf.)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Herbert Lewis and Mr.
 William Jones.

25. Motion made, and Question put,
 "That a sum, not exceeding £17,641
 (including a Supplementary sum of
 £13,000), be granted to Her Majesty, to
 complete the sum necessary to defray the
 Charge which will come in course of pay-
 ment during the year ending on the 31st
 day of March, 1900, for the Erection,

Repairs, and Maintenance of Public Build-
 ings in Ireland, for the Maintenance of
 certain Parks and Public Works, and for
 the Maintenance of Drainage Works on
 the River Shannon."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 196;
 Noes, 81. (Division List, No. 345.)

AYES.

Aird, John
 Allsopp, Hon. George
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Arnold, Alfred
 Atkinson, Right Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Joceline Fitzroy
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barnes, Frederic Gorell
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Bathurst, Hon. A. Benjamin
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Bethell, Commander
 Bhowaggee, Sir M. M.
 Bigwood, James
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bond, Edward
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
 Boulnois, Edmund
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Butcher, John George
 Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
 Carlile, William Walter
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)
 Cornwallis, Fiennes Bainley W.
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Donkin, Richard Sim
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Drucker, A.
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Joseph Thomas

Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Flower, Ernest
 Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
 Fry, Lewis
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Gedde, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, H. A. G. H. (City of Lon.)
 Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. George's)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
 Greene, W. Raymond - (Cambs.)
 Greenville, Hon. Ronald
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Harmon-Hodge, Rbt. Trotter
 Hill, Rt. Hon. A. Staveley (Staffs)
 Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampstd.)
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Howard, Joseph
 Hozier, Hon. J. Henry Cecil
 Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 Knowles, Lees
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning - (Corn)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks)
 Lea, Sir Thos. (Londonderry)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Llewellyn, Sir Dillwyn (Sw'nsea)
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald W. Erskine
 Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverpool)
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 Maclure, Sir John William
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)

Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Newdigate, Francis Alex.
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pollock, Harry Frederick
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Raach, Major Frederic Carne
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Charles T.
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Rollitt, Sir Albert Kaye
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thomas M.
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Seeley, Charles Hilton
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, William (Derby.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Edw. J. S. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Launce.)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Ox. Univ.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollenmache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Usborne, Thomas
 Valentin, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, J. Powell - (Birm.)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir
 William Walrond and Mr.
 Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
 Asher, Alexander
 Ashton, Thomas Gair

Atherley-Jones, L.
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. Blair (Clackm.)

Billson, Alfred
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Broadhurst, Henry

Burns, John
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Charles (Gl'ag'w)
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Crilly, Daniel
 Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Dillon, John
 Fenwick, Charles
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hn. Chas. Seale
 Hazell, Walter
 Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
 Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
 Holland, W. H. (York, W. R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)

Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kilbride, Denis
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Macaleese, Daniel
 MacDonnell, Dr. MA (Queen's C)
 M'Dermott, Patrick
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merth.)
 Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moss, Samuel
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
 Perks, Robert William

Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Roberts, J. H. (Denbighsh.)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Runciman, Walter
 Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
 Souttar, Robinson
 Steadman, William Charles
 Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
 Ure, Alexander
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, J. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, J. Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hudd'field)
 Yoxall, James Henry
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Captain Donelan and Mr.
 Donal Sullivan.

CLASS II.

26. Motion made, and Question put,
 "That a sum, not exceeding £6,099, be
 granted to Her Majesty, to complete the
 sum necessary to defray the Charge which
 will come in course of payment during

the year ending on the 31st day of
 March, 1900, for the Salaries and Ex-
 penses of the Offices of the House of
 Lords."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 198 ;
 Noes, 81. (Division List, No. 346.)

AYES.

Aird, John
 Alsopp, Hon. George
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Arnold, Alfred
 Atkinson, Right Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. J. FitzRoy
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barnes, Frederic Gorell
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Bathurst, Hon. A. Benjamin
 Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Bethell, Commander
 Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
 Bigwood, James
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
 Boulnois, Edmund
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Butcher, John George
 Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
 Carlile, William Walter
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Wor.)
 Chaplin, Right Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry

Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Cook, Fred Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)
 Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Col. Philip Hugh
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Donkin, Richard Sim
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Drucker, A.
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir W. Hart-
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 Fitz Wygram, General Sir F.
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Flower, Ernest
 Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Fry, Lewis
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City Lond.)
 Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell

Gilliat, John Saunders
 Goldsworthy, Major General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. Geo's)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
 Greene, W. Raymond (Cams.)
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Rbt. Wm.
 Hermon-Hodge, R. Trotter
 Hill, Rt Hon A Staveley (Staffs)
 Hoare, E. B. (Hampstead)
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. H.
 Howard, Joseph
 Hozier, Hon. J. H. Cecil
 Jackson, Rt. Hn. Wm. Lawies
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Jessel, Captain H. Merton
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 Knowles, Lees
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lea, Sir Thomas (Londond'ry)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Llewelyn Sir Dillwyn (Swansea)
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverp'l)
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison

Macdonald, John Cumming
 Maclure, Sir John William
 McArthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Mannors, Lord Edward W. J.
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Moore, William (Antrim), (N.)
 More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pollock, Harry Frederick
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward

Purvis, Robert
 Raach, Major Frederic Carne
 Richard, Henry Charles
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbysh.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strauss, Arthur

Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Oxf'd U.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Usborne, Thomas
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Jos. Powell-(Birm.)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh., N.)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, B.)
 TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)
 Asher, Alexander
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Athlerley-Jones, L.
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. B. (Clackm.)
 Billson, Alfred
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Burns, John
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Crilly, Daniel
 Curran, Thomas, B. (Donegal)
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Fenwick, Charles
 Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
 Hazell, Walter

Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
 Hedderwick, Thomas Charles H.
 Holland, W. H. (York, W. R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kilbride, Denis
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Macaleese, Daniel
 MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Qn's C.)
 Mc'Dermott, Patrick
 Mc'Ewan, William
 McLeod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
 Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moss, Samuel
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Olroyd, Mark

Palmer, Sir Chas. M. (Durham)
 Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
 Perks, Robert William
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Runciman, Walter
 Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
 Souttar, Robinson
 Steadman, William Charles
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
 Ure, Alexander
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, J. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, J. Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, Jos. H. (Middlesbrough)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf.)
 Yoxall, James Henry
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Captain Norton and Mr.
 Pirie.

27. £15,269, to complete the sum for House of Commons Offices.

28. £59,300, to complete the sum for the Treasury and Subordinate Departments.

29. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £96,868, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the

sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department and Subordinate Offices."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 204; Noes, 74. (Division List, No. 347.)

AYES.

Aird, John
 Allsopp, Hon. George
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Arnold, Alfred

Asher, Alexander
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch.)

Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. Blair (Clackm.)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barnes, Frederic Gorell

Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
 Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Bethell, Commander
 Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
 Bigwood, James
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bond, Edward
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
 Boulnois, Edmund
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Butcher, John George
 Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
 Carlile, William Walter
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Herefd.)
 Cornwallis, Fienes Stanley W.
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir J. P.
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Donkin, Richard Sim
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Duxford, William Theodore
 Drucker, A.
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir W. Hart
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edwd.
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 FitzWygram, General Sir F.
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Flower, Ernest
 Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry

Fry, Lewis
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lon.)
 Gibbs, Hon. V. (St. Albans)
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. Geo's)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Green, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
 Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. R. Wm.
 Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
 Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
 Hill, Rt. Hn. A. Staveley (Staffs)
 Hoare, Ed. Brodie (Hampstead)
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Howard, Joseph
 Hozier, Hon. James H. Cecil
 Jackson, Rt. Hon. W. Lawies
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Joicey, Sir James
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 Knowles, Lees
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Corn)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverp'l)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lea, Sir Thos. (Londonderry)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swans)
 Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverp'l)
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdonna, John Cumming
 Maclure, Sir John William
 McArthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Manners, Lord Edward W. J.
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropsh.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Dept'd)
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)

Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hn. Sir H. Stafford
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pollock, Harry Frederick
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, John Bryn (Elifion)
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Rollitt, Sir Albert Kaye
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Sandys, Lieut.-Col. T. Myles
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbyshire)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormkirk)
 Stanley, E. J. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edward M.
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Usborne, Thomas
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, J. Powell (Birm.)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh., N.)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. A. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
 TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir
 William Walrond and Mr.
 Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Billson, Alfred
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Burns, John
 Caldwell, James

Cameron, Sir Chas. (Glasgow)
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Crilly, Daniel
 Curran, Thos. B. (Donegal)
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Dillon, John

Donelan, Captain A.
 Fenwick, Charles
 Gourley, Sir E. Temperley
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
 Hazell, Walter
 Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W. R.)

Horniman, Frederick John
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Macaleese, Daniel
MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Q'n's C.)
McDermott, Patrick
McEwan, William
McLeod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Maden, John Henry
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)

Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
O'Connor, J. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Oldroyd, Mark
Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
Pearson, Sir Westman D.
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robson, William Snowdon
Runciman, Walter
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Souttar, Robinson

Steadman, William Charles
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, J. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, J. Carvell (Notts.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersfield)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES.—
Captain Norton and Mr.
Pirie.

30. Motion made, and Question put,
“That a sum, not exceeding £49,482, be
granted to Her Majesty, to complete the
sum necessary to defray the Charge
which will come in course of payment
during the year ending on the 31st day

of March, 1900, for the Salaries and
Expenses of the Department of Her
Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign
Affairs.”

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 197;
Noes, 77. (Division List, No. 348.)

AYES.

Aird, John
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold, Alfred
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. A. Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Boulnois, Edmund
Bousfield, William Robert
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, rd, Sir Harry
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
Carlile, William Walter
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cayser, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, E.)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Chelsea, Viscount
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hn. T. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas, Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Herefd)
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge

Cripps, Charles Alfred
Curzon, Viscount
Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chath'm)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Donkin, Richard Sim
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, William Theodore
Drucker, A.
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir W. Hart
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzWygram, General Sir F.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fry, Lewis
Galloway, William Johnson
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lon.)
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans)
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gilliat, John Saunders
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. Geo's)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond. (Camps.)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Gull, Sir Cameron
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. R. Wm.
Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
Hill, Rt. Hon. A. Staveley (Staffs)
Hoare, Ed. Brodie (Hampstead)

Houldsworth, Sir William H.
Howard, Joseph
Hozier, Hon. James H. Cecil
Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Jessell, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kewick, William
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning. (Corn)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn. (Swans')
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverpool)
Lorne, Marquess of
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdonald, John Cumming
Maclure, Sir John William
McArthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Edward Wm. J.
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Monk, Charles James
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Rbt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Parkes, Ebenezer

Pierpoint, Robert
 Pollock, Harry Frederick
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Rasch, Major Frederick Carne
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyronne)
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Sandys, Lieut.-Col. T. Myles
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Scobel, Sir Andrew Richard
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)

Sidebottom, William (Derbys.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir J. M.
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf. Univ.
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, W. E. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Usborne, Thomas

Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H.
 Wanklyn, James Lealie
 Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, J. Powell (Birm.)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks. E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
 Asher, Alexander
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. J. Blair (Clackm.)
 Billson, Alfred
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Burns, John
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Crilly, Daniel
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Fenwick, Charles
 Gourley, Sir E. Temperley
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale
 Hazell, Walter
 Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)

Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
 Holland, W. H. (York, W. R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kilbride, Denis
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb't'd
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Macaleese, Daniel
 MacDonnell, Dr. MA. (Queen's C.)
 M'Dermott, Patrick
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
 Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moss, Samuel
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Oldroyd, Mark

Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
 Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighsh.)
 Robson, William (Snowdon)
 Runciman, Walter
 Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
 Souttar, Robinson
 Steadman, William Charles
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Ure, Alexander
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
 Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Captain Norton and Mr.
 Pirie.

31. £64,070, to complete the sum for Mercantile Marine Services.

32. £6, to complete the sum for the Bankruptcy Department of the Board of Trade.

33. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £28,919, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the

sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Board of Agriculture, and to pay certain Grants in Aid."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 196 ;
 Noes, 77. (Division List, No. 349.)

AYES.

Aird, John
 Allsopp, Hon. George
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Arnold, Alfred
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Joseline FitzRoy
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchr)
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barnes, Frederic Gorrell
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
 Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Bethell, Commander
 Bhowagregre, Sir M. M.
 Bigwood, James

Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bond, Edward
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
 Boulnois, Edmund
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Butcher, John George
 Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
 Canfile, William Walter
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.

Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Lewis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colston, Chas. Ed. H. Athole
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd)
 Cornwalls, Fiennes Stanley W.
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh

Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Donkin, Richard Sim
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doford, William Theodore
 Drucker, A.
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 FitzWygram, General Sir F.
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Flower, Ernest
 Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Fry, Lewis
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond.)
 Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Giles, Charles Tyrell
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. George's)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
 Greene, W. Raymond. (Cambs.)
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Hermon-Hodge, Robert Trotter
 Hill, Rt. Hn. A. Staveley (Staffs.)
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Howard, Joseph
 Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
 Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lăwies
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)
 Asher, Alexander
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. J. Blair (Clackm.)
 Billson, Alfred
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Burns, John
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
 Cawley, Frederick
 Crilly, Daniel
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Fenwick, Charles
 Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
 Hazell, Walter
 Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)

Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 Knowles, Lees
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning. (Corn)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn. (Swans.)
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Liverpool)
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 Maclure, Sir John William
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Manners, Lord Edward Wm. J.
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, Rbt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deftford)
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hn. Sir H. Stafford
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsey
 Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pollock, Harry Frederick
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Raach, Major Frederic Carne
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson

NOES.

Hedderwick, Thomas Chas. H.
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W. K.)
 Horniman, Frederick, John
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kilbride, Denis
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Macaleese, Daniel
 MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Qn's. C.)
 M'Dermott, Patrick
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
 Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moss, Samuel
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
 O'Connor, Thomas

Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Rolitt, Sir Albert Kaye
 Round, James
 Russell, T. W. (Tyronne)
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Seoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. H. Napier
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd U.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Usborne, Thomas
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, J. Powell. (Birm.)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robson, William Snowden
 Runciman, Walter
 Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
 Souttar, Robinson
 Steadman, William Charles
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
 Ure, Alexander
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, J. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John C. (Notts.)
 Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hudds'd)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Channing and Mr.
 Wynn

34. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £132,732, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the

year ending on the 31st day of March 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Local Government Board."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 196 ; Noes, 72. (Division List, No. 350.)

AYES.

Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold, Alfred
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. J. B. (Clackm.)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barton, Dunbar Plunkett
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander
Bhownagree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Boulnois, Edmund
Bousfield, William Robert
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
Carlile, William Walter
Causton, Richard Knight
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbys.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, E.)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Chelsea, Viscount
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Ed. H. Athole
Cook, Fred Lucas (Lambeth)
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd)
Cornwallis, Fiennes S. W.
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Curzon, Viscount
Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
Dalkieth, Earl of
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chat'm)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Donkin, Richard Sim
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, William Theodore
Drucker, A.
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas

Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzWygram, General Sir F.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Fry, Lewis
Galloway, William Johnson
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (Cy. of Lond.)
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gilliat, John Saunders
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. Geo's)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond. (Cams.)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Gull, Sir Cameron
Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robt. Wm.
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Hermon-Hodge, R. Trotter
Hill, Rt. Hon. A. S. (Staffs.)
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, Joseph
Hozier, Hon. James Hy. Cecil
Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kewick, William
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning. (Corn)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lea, Sir Thos. (Londonderry)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewellyn, Sir Dillwyn. (Swan.)
Lockwood, Lieut. Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Liverpool)
Lorne, Marquess of
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdonna, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maclure, Sir John William
McArthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Edward W. J.
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Meller, Colonel (Lancashire)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milward, Colonel Victor
Monk, Charles James
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim. N.)
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)

Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pierpoint, Robert
Pollock, Harry Frederick
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, James
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
Sandys, Lieut. Col. T. Myles
Savory, Sir Joseph
Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
Seely, Charles Hilton
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbysh.)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer, Ernest
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir J. M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strauss, Arthur
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Sutherland, Sir Thomas
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxford Univ.)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Usborne, Thomas
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. C. E. Howard
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Jos. Powell. (Birm.)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
 Asher, Alexander
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Billson, Alfred
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Burns, John
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
 Cawley, Frederick
 Crilly, Daniel
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Fenwick, Charles
 Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Harwood, George
 Hazell, Walter
 Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
 Hedderwick, Thomas Chas. H.
 Holland, W. H. (York, W.R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace

Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kilbride, Denis
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Macaleese, Daniel
 MacDonnell, Dr MA (Qu'n's C.)
 M'Dermott, Patrick
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merth'r)
 Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moss, Samuel
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 O'Connor Arthur (Donegal)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
 Pearson, Sir Weetman D.

Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighsh.)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Runciman, Walter
 Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
 Souttar, Robinson
 Steadman, William Charles
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
 Ure, Alexander
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
 Wilson, Jos. H. (Middlesex)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd)
 Yoxall, James Henry
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES.—
 Mr. Channing and Mr.
 Broadhurst.

35. Motion made, and Question put,
 "That a sum, not exceeding £13,000, be
 granted to Her Majesty, to complete the
 sum necessary to defray the Charge which
 will come in course of payment during
 the year ending on the 31st day of March

1900, for Her Majesty's Foreign and
 other Secret Services."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 201;
 Noes, 71. (Division List, No. 351).

AYES.

Allsopp, Hon. George
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Arnold, Alfred
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barnes, Frederic Gorell
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Bethell, Commander
 Bhowaggee, Sir M. M.
 Bigwood, James
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bond, Edward
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
 Boulnois, Edmund
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Burtlett-Coutts, W.
 Butcher, John George
 Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
 Carile, William Walter
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.

Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r.)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colston, Chas. E. H. Athole
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd)
 Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
 Cox, Irwin Edwd. Bainbridge
 Cripps, Charles Edward
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chath'm)
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Donkin, Richard Sim
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Duxford, William Theodore
 Drucker, A.
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
 Fellows, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Joseph Thomas

Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 FitzWygram, General Sir F.
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Flower, Ernest
 Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
 Fry, Lewis
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H. (City of Lond.)
 Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. George's)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
 Greene, W. Raymond (Camba.)
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Harwood, George
 Hermon-Hodge, Robt. Trotter
 Hill, Rt. Hon. A. Staveley (Staffs.)
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Howard, Joseph
 Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
 Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick

Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kewick, William
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks)
Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swan)
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
Lorne, Marquess of
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdonald, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maclure, Sir John William
McArthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Edward Wm. J.
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milward, Colonel Victor
Monk, Charles James
Moon, Edward Robert Percy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)

Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Northcote, Hon. Sir. H. Stafford
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pierpoint, Robert
Pollock, Harry Frederick
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, James
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
Savory, Sir Joseph
Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
Seely, Charles Hilton
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
Sidebottom, William (Derbysh.)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Speneer, Ernest

Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strauss, Arthur
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Sutherland, Sir Thomas
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxford U.)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Usborne, Thomas
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Jos. Powell (Birm.)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh, N.)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
TELLERS FOR THE AYES.—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Balfour, Rt. Hn. J. Blair (Clackm.)
Billson, Alfred
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Broadhurst, Henry
Burns, John
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Crilly, Daniel
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Dalziel, James Henry
Donelan, Captain A.
Fenwick, Charles
Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Hazel, Walter
Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
Hedderwick, Thos. Charles H.

Holland, Wm. H. (York, W. R.)
Horniman, Frederick John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Macalessa, Daniel
MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Queen's C.)
McDermott, Patrick
McEwan, William
McLeod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Maden, John Henry
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Sammel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
O'Connor, J. (Wicklow, W.)
Oldroyd, Mark
Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.

Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Provaad, Andrew Dryburgh
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robson, William Snowdon
Runciman, Walter
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Souttar, Robinson
Steadman, William Charles
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, J. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
Whiteley, George (Stockport)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hudders'fd)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Major Jameson and Mr.
Pirie.

36. Motion made, and Question put,
“That a sum, not exceeding £16,169, be
granted to Her Majesty, to complete the
sum necessary to defray the Charge which
will come in course of payment during
the year ending on the 31st day of March
1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of

the Fishery Board in Scotland and for
Grants in Aid of Piers or Quays.”

The Committee proceeded to a Division,
and the Chairman stated that he thought
the Ayes had it; and on his decision

being challenged it appeared to him that the Division was frivolously claimed, and he accordingly directed the Noes to stand up in their places, and five Members having stood up, the Chairman declared that the Ayes had it.

37. £8,000, to complete the sum for the Local Government Board for Scotland.

38. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £28,782, be

granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Offices of the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant in Dublin and London, and Subordinate Departments."

The Committee Divided: Ayes, 193; Noes, 75. (Division List, No. 352.)

AYES.

Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold, Alfred
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline Fitz Roy
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederick Gorell
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Boulnois, Edmund
Bousfield, William Robert
Brasey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
Carlle, William Walter
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, E.)
Cecil Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Chelsea, Viscount
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)
Cornwallis, Fienes Stanley W.
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Curzon, Viscount
Dalhousie, Colonel Philip Hugh
Dalketh, Earl of
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chatham)
Davies-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dierrell, Coningsby Ralph
Donkin, Richard Sim
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, William Theodore
Drucker, A.

Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzWygram, General Sir F.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Fry, Lewis
Galloway, William Johnson
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (Cy. of Lond.)
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gilliat, John Saunders
Goldworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. George's)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Hy. D. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond (Camba.)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Gull, Sir Cameron
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
Hermon-Hodge, Robert T.
Hill, Rt. Hon. A. Staveley (Staffs.)
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, Joseph
Hozier, Hon. James Hy. Cecil
Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kewick, William
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Corn.)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lee, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewellyn, Sir Dillwyn- (Swans.)
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
Lorne, Marquess of
Lowe, Francis William

Lowles, John
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maclver, David (Liverpool)
Maclure, Sir John William
McArthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Malcom, Ian
Manners, Lord Edward W. J.
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milward, Colonel Victor
Monk, Charles James
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robt. J. (Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Northcote, Hn. Sir H. Staff'd
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pierpoint, Robert
Pollock, Harry Frederick
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
Richie, Rt. Hon. Charles T.
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, James
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Savory, Sir Joseph
Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
Seely, Charles Hilton
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbysh.)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer, Ernest
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormakirk)
Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strauss, Arthur

Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Start, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf. Univ.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Usborne, Thomas
 Valentia, Viscount

Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Jos. Powell- (Birm.)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh, N.)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorka.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-

Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)
 Asher, Alexander
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. J. Blair (Clackm
 Billson, Alfred
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Burns, John
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Crilly, Daniel
 Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Fenwick, Charles
 Gourley, Sir E. Temperley
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
 Hazell, Walter
 Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
 Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.

Holland, W. H. (York, W. R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kilbride, Denis
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Macaleese, Daniel
 MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Queen's C.)
 M'Dermott, Patrick
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
 Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moss, Samuel
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 Oldroyd, Mark

Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)
 Pearson, Sir Westman D.
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Runciman, Walter
 Souttar, Robinson
 Steadman, William Charles
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Ure, Alexander
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, Jos. H. (Middlesbrough)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Captain Donelan and Mr.
 Donal Sullivan.

39. £27,479, to complete the sum for
 the Local Government Board, Ireland.

CLASS III.

40. £60,806, to complete the sum for
 Law Charges and Courts of Law,
 Scotland.

41. £29,565, to complete the sum for
 the Register House, Edinburgh.

42. £3,000, to complete the sum for
 the Crofters' Commission.

43. £53,180, to complete the sum for
 Prisons, Scotland.

44. Motion made, and Question put,
 "That a sum not exceeding £71,777 be
 granted to Her Majesty to complete the
 sum necessary to defray the Charge which
 will come in course of payment during
 the year ending on the 31st day of March,
 1900, for such of the Salaries and
 Expenses of the Supreme Court of Judi-
 cature and of certain other Legal Depart-
 ments in Ireland as are not charged on
 the Consolidated Fund."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 188 ;
 Noes, 69. (Division List, No. 353.)

AYES.

Aird, John
 Allsopp, Hon. George
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Arnold, Alfred
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. Gerald W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Barnes, Frederic Gorell
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket

Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
 Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Brist')
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Bethell, Commander
 Bigwood, James
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bond, Edward
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
 Boulnois, Edmund
 Bousfield, William Robert

Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Butcher, John George
 Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
 Carlile, William Walter
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, E.)

Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Chelsea, Viscount
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colston, Chas. E. W. Athole
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd)
 Cornwallis, Fiennes S. W.
 Cox, Irwin E. Bainbridge
 Curzon, Viscount
 Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir J. P.
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Donkin, Richard Sim
 Doughy, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, William Theodore
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir W. Hart
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 FitzWygram, General Sir F.
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Flower, Ernest
 Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
 Fry, Lewis
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbons, J. Lloyd
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond)
 Giles, Charles Tyrrell
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goshen, Rt. Hn. J. (St. George's)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
 Greene, W. Raymond. (Cambs.)

Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
 Hill, Rt. Hn. A. Staveley (Staffs.)
 Howard, Joseph
 Hozier, Hon. James Henry C.
 Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 Knowles, Lees
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning. (Corn)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lea, Sir Thos. (Londonderry)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn. (Sw'n's a)
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 MacIure, Sir John William
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Manners, Lord Edward W. J.
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Paey
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hn. Sir H. Stafford
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pierpoint, Robert

Pollock, Harry Frederick
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Raach, Major Frederic Carne
 Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Rollet, Sir Albert Kaye
 Russell, T. W. (Tyronne)
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbysh.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Edward J. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Ox. Uni.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Usborne, Thomas
 Valencia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H.
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, J. Powell. (Birm.)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major H. W.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.).
 TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
 Asher, Alexander
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. J. B. (Clackm.)
 Billson, Alfred
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Burns, John
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Chas. (Glasgow)
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Crilly, Daniel
 Curran, Thos. B. (Donegal)
 Curran, Thos. (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles

Fenwick, Charles
 Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
 Hazell, Walter
 Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
 Hedderwick, Thos. Chas. H.
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kilbride, Denis
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David

Macaleese, Daniel
 MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Qu'n's C.)
 M'Dermott, Patrick
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Mend, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr-
 Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moss, Samuel
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
 Oldroyd, Mark
 Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham).
 Pearson, Sir Weetman D.

Pirie, Duncan V.
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robson, William Snowdon
Runciman, Walter

Souttar, Robinson
Steadman, William Charles
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Warner, Thos. Courtney T.
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer

Williams, J. Carvell (Notts.)
Wilson, J.H. (Middlesbrough
Woodhouse, Sir J.T. (Huddersf'd
Yoxall, James Henry
TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Captain Donelan and Mr.
Donal Sullivan.

45. Motion made, and Question put,
“That a sum, not exceeding £84,484, be
granted to Her Majesty to complete the
sum necessary to defray the Charge which
will come in course of payment during the
year ending on the 31st day of March,

1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of
the Office of the Irish Land Commission.”

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 186 ;
Noes, 66. (Division List, No. 354.)

AYES.

Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold, Alfred
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederick Gorell
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Boulnois, Edmund
Boufield, William Robert
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
Carlile, William Walter
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Chelsea, Viscount
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd)
Cornwallis, Fienes Stanley W.
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Curzon, Vicount
Dalbiac, Colonel Philip Hugh
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chatham
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Donkin, Richard Sim
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, William Theodore

Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir W. Hart
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzWygram, General Sir F.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Fry, Lewis
Galloway, William Johnson
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H. (City of Lon.
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gilliat, John Saunders
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St George's
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Gull, Sir Cameron
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Rbt. Wm.
Hill, Rt. Hon. A. Staveley (Staffs.
Howard, Joseph
Hozier, Hon. J. Henry Cecil
Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewellyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swans.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverpool
Lorne, Marquess of
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John

Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maclure, Sir John William
McArthur Charles (Liverpool)
Malcolm Ian
Manners, Lord Edward W. J.
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milward, Colonel Victor
Monk, Charles James
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deft'd
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pierpoint, Robert
Pollock, Harry Frederick
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
Sandy, Lieut.-Col. T. Myles
Savory, Sir Joseph
Seoble, Sir Andrew Richard
Seely, Charles Hilton
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbyshire)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer, Ernest
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, E. James (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strauss, Arthur
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier

Sutherland, Sir Thomas
Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Oxford Univ.)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Usborne, Thomas
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard

Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, J. Powell. (Birm.)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh., N)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart

Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)
Asher, Alexander
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. B. (Clackm.)
Billson, Alfred
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Broadhurst, Henry
Burns, John
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
Channing, Francis Allston
Crilly, Daniel
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Dalziel, James Henry
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Fenwick, Charles
Gourley, Sir Ed. Temperley
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hazel, Walter
Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
Hedderwick, Thomas Chas. H.
Holland, Wm. H. (York, W. R.)

Horniman, Frederick John
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Kearley, Hudson, E.
Kilbride, Denis
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'lnd)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Macaleese, Daniel
MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Qn's C.)
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Ewan, William
M'Leod, John
Maddison, Fred.
Maden, John Henry
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr)
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)

Oldroyd, Mark
Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
Pearson, Sir Westman D.
Pirie, Duncan V.
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robson, William Snowdon
Runciman, Walter
Souttar, Robinson
Steadman, William Charles
Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd)
Yoxall, James Henry
TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Captain Donelan and Mr.
Donal Sullivan.

46. £75,675, to complete the sum for County Court Officers, &c., Ireland.

47. £63,316, to complete the sum for Dublin Metropolitan Police.

48. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £750,900,

be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Expenses of the Royal Irish Constabulary."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 178; Noes, 64. (Division List, No. 355.)

AYES.

Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold, Alfred
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josefine FitzRoy
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bonsfield, William Robert
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
Carlike, William Walter

Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Chelsea, Viscount
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd)
Cornwallis, Fienes Stanley W.
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Curzon, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chatham)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Donkin, Richard Sim

Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, William Theodore
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
Fellows, Hn. Ailwyn Edward
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzWygram, General Sir F.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Fry, Lewis
Galloway, William Johnson
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond)
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gilliat, John Saunders
Goldsworthy, Major-General

Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St George's)
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
 Greene, W. Raymond- (Cambs.)
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. Wm.
 Hill, Rt. Hn. A. Staveley (Staffs.)
 Howard, Joseph
 Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
 Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jenkins, Sir John Jones
 Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 Knowles, Lees
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Corn)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn- (Sw'nsea)
 Lockwood, Lt. Colonel A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowles, John
 Macartney, W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 MacIure, Sir John William

M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Manners, Lord Edward Wm. J.
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Northcote, Hn. Sir H. Stafford
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pollock, Harry Frederick
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
 Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Seely, Charles Hilton
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)

Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbysh.)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormakirk)
 Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strauss, Arthur
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Sutherland, Sir Thomas
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Usborne, Thomas
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Williams, Jos. Powell- (Birm.)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh, N.)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
 Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)
 Asher, Alexander
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. J. B. (Clackm.)
 Billson, Alfred
 Belton, Thomas Dolling
 Burns, John
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Sir Chas. (Glasgow)
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Crilly, Daniel
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Fenwick, Charles
 Gourley, Sir Edward T.
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
 Hazell, Walter
 Healthy, T. M. (N. Louth)
 Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
 Holland, Wm. H. (York, W. R.)
 Horniman, Frederick John

Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, W. (Carnarvonshire)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kilbride, Denis
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Macaleese, Daniel
 MacDonnel, Dr. M. A. (Q'n's C.)
 M'Dermott, Patrick
 M'Ewan, William
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Maden, John Henry
 Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
 Morgan, W. Pritchard (M'rthyr)
 Morten, E. J. C. (Devonport)
 Moss, Samuel
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 O'Connor, J. (Wicklow, W.)
 Oldroyd, Mark

Palmer, Sir Chas. M. (Durham)
 Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Runciman, Walter
 Souttar, Robinson
 Steadman, William Charles
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Ure, Alexander
 Wallace, Robert
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, J. Carvell (Notts.)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hudd'rsf'd)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Captain Donelan and Mr.
 Donal Sullivan.

49. £69,096, to complete the sum for
 Prisons, Ireland.

50. £54,669, to complete the sum for
 Reformatory and Industrial Schools,
 Ireland.

51. £4,044, to complete the sum fo
 Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum,
 Ireland.

CLASS VI.

52. £7,497, to complete the sum for
 Hospitals and Charities, Ireland.

CLASS VII.

53. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £10,928 (including a Supplementary sum of £4,000), be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment

during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for certain Miscellaneous Expenses."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 180; Noes, 60. (Division List, No. 356.)

AYES.

Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold, Alfred
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. J. Blair (Clackm.)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bosfield, William Robert
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John.
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burdett-Countts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
Carlile, William Walter
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Chelsea, Viscount
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, C. Edward H. Athole
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Herefd.)
Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Curzon, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Donkin, Richard Sim
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, William Theodore
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir R. Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzWygram, General Sir F.

Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Fry, Lewis
Galloway, William Johnson
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lon.)
Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Gilliat, John Saunders
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. John
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. Geo.'s)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Gull, Sir Cameror.
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
Hill, Rt. Hon. A. Staveley (Staffs)
Howard, Joseph
Hoxier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kewick, William
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lea, Sir Thos. (Londonderry)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swans.)
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (L'pool)
Lorne, Marquess of
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdonna, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maclure, Sir John William
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Ewan, William
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Edward W. J.
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milward, Colonel Victor
Monk, Charles James
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)

Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Northcote, Hon. Sir H. (Stafford)
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Parke, Ebenezer
Pierpoint, Robert
Pollock, Harry Frederick
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Russell, T. W. (Tyronne)
Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Savory, Sir Joseph
Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
Seely, Charles Hilton
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbyshire)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer, Ernest
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strauss, Arthur
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Sutherland, Sir Thomas
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Usborne, Thomas
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
Williams, Joseph Powell (Birm.)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Wyvil, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)	Holland, Wm. H. (York, W.R.)	Oldroyd, Mark
Asher, Alexander	Horniman, Frederick John	Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)	Jameson, Major J. Eustace	Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Billson, Alfred	Joicey, Sir James	Pirie, Duncan V.
Bolton, Thomas Dolling	Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)	Provand, Andrew, Dryburgh
Burns, John	Kearley, Hudson E.	Rickett, J. Compton
Caldwell, James	Kilbride, Denis	Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)	Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)	Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Channing, Francis Allston	Lewis, John Herbert	Robson, William Snowdon
Crilly, Daniel	Lloyd-George, David	Runciman, Walter
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)	Macaleese, Daniel	Souttar, Robinson
Dalziel, James Henry	MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Q'n's C.)	Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles	M'Dermott, Patrick	Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Donelan, Captain A.	M'Leod, John	Ure, Alexander
Fenwick, Charles	Maden, John Henry	Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley	Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand	Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Griffith, Ellis J.	Morgan, W. Pritchard (Merthyr)	Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-Hazell, Walter	Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)	Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd)
Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)	Moss, Samuel	TELLERS FOR THE NOES.—
Hedderwick, Thos. Charles H.	Moulton, John Fletcher	Captain Norton and Mr. Steadman.
	O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)	

54. £20,000, for the Congested Districts Board, Scotland.

55. £14,251, for repayments to the Civil Contingencies Fund.

56. £60,000, for the Paris Exhibition, 1900.

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1899-1900.

57. £305,800, for Medical Establishment, Pay, etc.

58. £571,000, for Militia Pay, Bounty, etc.

59. £75,000, for Yeomanry Cavalry, Pay and Allowance.

60. £624,200, for Volunteer Corps, Pay and Allowances.

61. £790,000, for Transports and Remounts.

62. £111,100, for Establishments for Military Education.

63. £60,200, for Miscellaneous Effective Services.

64. Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £248,300, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge for the Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges of the War Office, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 180; Noes, 57. (Division List, No. 357.)

AYES.

Allsopp, Hon. George	Cayzer, Sir Charles William	Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
Anson, Sir William Reynell	Cecil, Evelyn (Hertford, East)	Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Arnold, Alfred	Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)	Finch, George H.
Asher, Alexander	Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.	Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John	Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)	Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy	Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry	Fisher, William Hayes
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)	Charrington, Spencer	Fison, Frederick William
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)	Chelsea, Viscount	FitzWygram, General Sir F.
Balfour, Rt. Hn. J. Blair (Clackm.)	Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.	Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Banbury, Frederick George	Coghill, Douglas Harry	Flo'er, Ernest
Barnes, Frederic Gorrell	Cohen, Benjamin Louis	Foster, Harry S. (Suffolk)
Barton, Dunbar Plunket	Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse	Fry, Lewis
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin	Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole	Galloway, William Johnson
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)	Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)	Gedge, Sydney
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.	Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)	Gibbons, J. Lloyd
Bethell, Commander	Cornwallis, Fiennes Stanley W.	Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (C. of Lond.)
Bigwood, James	Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge	Giles, Charles Tyrrell
Blundell, Colonel Henry	Curzon, Viscount	Goldsworthy, Major-General
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith	Dalkeith, Earl of	Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Bousfield, William Robert	Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chath'm)	Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Brassey, Albert	Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.	Goschen, Rt. Hn. G. J. (St. George's)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John	Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph	Goulding, Edward Alfred
Bullard, Sir Harry	Donkin, Richard Sim	Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Burdett-Coutts, W.	Doughty, George	Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
Butcher, John George	Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-	Greene, W. Raymond (Cams.)
Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)	Doxford, William Theodore	Greville, Hon. Ronald
Carlile, William Walter	Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.	Gull, Sir Cameron
Cavendish, V. CW (Derbyshire)	Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart	Hanbury, Rt. Hon. R. Wm.

Hill, Rt. Hn. A. Staveley (Staffs.)
Howard, Joseph
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jenkins, Sir John Jones
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Corn)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks)
Lea, Sir Thos. (Londonderry)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn- (Sw'n's a)
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
Lorne, Marquess of
Lowe, Francis William
Lowles, John
Macartney, W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maclure, Sir John William
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Ewan, William
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Edward W. J.
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milward, Colonel Victor

Monk, Charles James
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropsh.)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Northcote, Hon. Sir H. Stafford
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pierpoint, Robert
Pollock, Harry Frederick
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ridley, Rt. Hn. Sir Matthew W.
Ritchie, Rt Hon Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Ryder, John Herbert Dudley
Savory, Sir Joseph
Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
Seely, Charles Hilton
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
Sidebottom, Wm. (Derbysh.)
Simeon, Sir Barrington

Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer, Ernest
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stephens, Henry Charles
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strauss, Arthur
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Sutherland, Sir Thomas
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Usborne, Thomas
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H.
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C.E. (Kent)
Williams, Joseph Powell- (Birm)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh., N.)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Wyvill, Marmaduke D'Arcy
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Billson, Alfred
Burns, John
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Sir Charles (Glasgow)
Channing, Francis Allston
Crilly, Daniel
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Dalziel, James Henry
Dilke, Lt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Fenwick, Charles
Gourley, Sir Edw. Temperley
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. C. Seale-
Hazel, Walter
Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
Holland, W. H. (York, W. R.)
Horniman, Frederick John

Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
Lawson, Sir W. (Cumb'land)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Macaleese, Daniel
MacDonnell, Dr. M. A. (Q.C.)
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Leod, John
Maden, John Henry
Mendl, Sigismund Ferdinand
Morgan, W. P. (Merthyr)
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
Oldroyd, Mark

Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Provand, Andrew Dryburgh
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robson, William Snowdon
Runciman, Walter
Souttar, Robinson
Steadman, William Charles
Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
Ure, Alexander
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd)
TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Captain Norton and Mr.
Pirie.

65. £100, for Ordnance Factories.

Resolutions to be reported To-morrow.

WAYS AND MEANS.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved—

“That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty for the service of the

year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, the sum of £55,858,263 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.”—
(*Mr. Hanbury.*)

Resolution to be reported to-morrow.

In pursuance of the Order of the House of the 17th day of July last, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

House adjourned accordingly at five minutes after One o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 4th August 1899.

EARL OF LANDAFF.

Petition of Arnold Harris Mathew Earl of Landaff claiming a right to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland; read, and referred to the Lord Chancellor to consider and report thereupon to the House.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

CROMER PROTECTION BILL [H.L.]

OLDHAM CORPORATION BILL [H.L.]

NORTH-EASTERN AND HULL AND BARNLEY RAILWAYS (JOINT DOCK) BILL [H.L.]

FYLDE WATER BOARD BILL [H.L.]

SALFORD CORPORATION BILL [H.L.]

WAKEFIELD CORPORATION BILL [H.L.]

Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to.

STOCKPORT DISTRICT WATER BILL.

The CHAIRMAN of COMMITTEES informed the House, That the promoters do not intend to proceed further with the Bill: Ordered, that the Bill be not further proceeded with.

BRADFORD TRAMWAYS AND IMPROVEMENT BILL.

Read 3^d, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

BELFAST CORPORATION BILL.

CITY AND BRIXTON RAILWAY BILL.

GATESHEAD AND DISTRICT TRAMWAYS BILL.

LONDON, WALTHAMSTOW, AND EPPING FOREST RAILWAY (No. 2) BILL.

WEST METROPOLITAN RAILWAY BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

VOL. LXXV. [FOURTH SERIES.]

BEXHILL AND ROTHERFIELD RAILWAY BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendment agreed to.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION (LONDON) BILL [H.L.]

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.

BIRMINGHAM, NORTH WARWICKSHIRE, AND STRATFORD-UPON-AVON RAILWAY BILL [H.L.]

LONDON AND SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY BILL [H.L.]

MANCHESTER CORPORATION TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.]

PAISLEY AND BARRHEAD DISTRICT RAILWAY BILL [H.L.]

PORTSMOUTH CORPORATION BILL [H.L.]

ROCHDALE CANAL BILL [H.L.]

SOUTHPORT AND LYTHAM TRAMROAD BILL [H.L.]

WOLVERHAMPTON CORPORATION BILL [H.L.]

WORKINGTON CORPORATION WATER BILL [H.L.]

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

I. (1) Schools in receipt of Parliamentary grants;

(2) Grants paid to school boards under Section 97, Elementary Education Act 1870;

(3) School board accounts and list loans (1898-99).

II. Report of the Committee of Council on Education (England and Wales), with Appendix (1898-99).

III. Minute of the Committee of Council on Education, dated 4th August, 1899, modifying Articles 15 and 15* of the Evening Continuation Schools Code, 1899.

EGYPT, No. 6 (1899).

Papers relating to the contract for the Atbara Bridge.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP (PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS FROM MACHINERY IN THE MANUFACTURE OF COTTON).

Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, by W. A. Blaumont, Esquire, and H. S. Richmond, Esquire, two of Her Majesty's Superintending Inspectors of Factories, on the prevention of accidents from machinery in the manufacture of cotton.

RAILWAYS.

General report to the Board of Trade on the capital, traffic, and expenditure of the railway companies of the United Kingdom, for the year 1898.

STATISTICS.

- I. Statistical Abstract for the United Kingdom in each of the last fifteen years, from 1884 to 1898. Forty-sixth Number.
- II. Statistical Abstract for the Colonial and other Possessions of the United Kingdom in each of the last fifteen years, from 1884 to 1898. Thirty-sixth Number.

Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table.

SUPERANNUATION.

Treasury Minute, dated 29th July, 1899, granting a retired allowance to Mr. G. F. Long, formerly a second division clerk in the Office of Public Works, Dublin, under Section 2 of the Superannuation Act, 1887.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Report by the Board of Trade of their proceedings and business under the Weights and Measures Acts.

RAILWAY SERVANTS (HOURS OF LABOUR).

Report of the Board of Trade respecting the proceedings of the Board of Trade under the Railway Regulation Act, 1893, during the year ended 27th July, 1899.

BANKRUPTCY.

Sixteenth general annual report by the Board of Trade.

COMPANIES (WINDING-UP).

Eighth general annual report by the Board of Trade, under Section 29 of the Companies (Winding-up) Act, 1890.

Laid before the House [pursuant to Act], and ordered to lie on the Table.

PETITION.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS (BOROUGH FUNDS) ACT, 1872.

Petition for the Amendment of ; of the Urban District Council of Petersfield; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

HOUSE OF LORDS OFFICES.

Second Report from the Select Committee, made; to be printed; and to be considered on Monday next. (No. 212.)

IMPROVEMENT OF LAND BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

COMPANIES BILL [H.L.].

COPYRIGHT BILL [H.L.].

COPYRIGHT (ARTISTIC) BILL [H.L.].

Message from the Commons for copies of Reports, &c., of the Select Committees: Ordered to be communicated accordingly.

COTTAGE HOMES BILL.

METROPOLITAN GAS COMPANIES.

AGED DESERVING POOR.

Messages to the Commons for Reports, &c., of Select Committees.

LINCOLNSHIRE CORONERS BILL [H.L.].

Commons Amendments to be considered on Monday next.

SALMON FISHERIES (SCOTLAND).

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH): My Lords, I rise to call attention to the Report of the Royal Commission of 1895 on the Tweed Fisheries Acts; and to present a Bill to repeal the Tweed Fisheries Acts, and to provide for the application of the Salmon Fisheries (Scotland) Acts to the district of the River Tweed. I shall not detain the House very long in introducing this Bill,

but I desire to say a few words of explanation in laying the Bill upon the Table of your Lordships' House, and in asking your Lordships to give it a First Reading. The object of now submitting the Bill is that its provisions may be considered during the months that are to come by those on the Tweed who will be affected by it, and who will be, in all probability, interested in what is proposed to be done. The Bill is founded entirely upon the leading recommendations of the long and exhaustive inquiry which was conducted by a Commission, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Stafford Howard, two or three years ago. The leading recommendation of the Commission, in which they were all unanimous, was that the special Acts which regulate salmon fisheries on the Tweed should be abolished, and that the Tweed should come under the general law which regulates salmon fisheries in Scotland. The Tweed is in a very peculiar position at the present time. The whole length of the river is a hundred miles, of which eighty are in Scotland. About seventeen form the boundary between England and Scotland, and the four miles above the mouth are wholly in England. The law which governs the fisheries in the Tweed are in a state of great confusion. There are two leading special Tweed Acts—the Act of 1857 and the Act of 1859; but, in addition, there are some Acts which apply to salmon fisheries throughout the whole of the United Kingdom, and these are applicable to the Tweed. There are some Acts which apply only to Scotland, and some which apply only to England. At present, in the case of some of these Acts, the English Acts apply to the English part of the Tweed, and the Scotch Acts in whole, or in part, to the Scottish part of the Tweed. But the confusion does not even stop there, because some of the Acts apply in part to the Tweed; some clauses and sections apply to the Tweed, and some do not. In one case, at least, a Scottish Act applies to the Tweed, but the amending Act of this Scottish Act does not. I think your Lordships will see that the present state of the law is one of great difficulty and confusion, and it has not been successful, because there have been complaints from time to time during the last thirty years that the take of salmon in the Tweed has been diminishing. There was an inquiry by Mr. Walpole and a

colleague in 1874, and they came to that conclusion. Mr. Stafford Howard's Commission came to the same conclusion. They said that the annual take of salmon varies very much, but the figures of recent years show that, while the good years seem to be up to their former average, the bad years have fallen below their average, and the witnesses were practically unanimous in declaring, as regards the upper waters of the river, that the fish had greatly decreased. I am afraid that matters are worse at the present time than they were three or four years ago. The reasons which were assigned, first by Mr. Walpole and his colleague, and then by Mr. Howard's Commission, were three: First, that there is not such good access to the upper waters, on account of the rapidity with which the drainage of land causes the floods to run off; secondly, that there is greater pollution than there used to be; and, thirdly, that the decrease is due, to some extent, to the prevalence of poaching, and the fact that the sympathies of the population are unfortunately with the poachers. I am afraid that the first of these causes is not likely to be remedied. The second, I would hope, will receive the attention of Parliament. I believe, speaking for myself personally, there is nothing more urgently required than a more efficient means of preventing the pollution of rivers, whether by sewage or by manufacturing refuse, but it is obviously not within the scope of this Bill to deal with that matter. With regard to the other cause, the prevalence of poaching, there is a good deal to be said, and it is clearly proved by the evidence before this Commission that there is a great deal of illegal fishing, both at the mouth of the river and in the upper waters. The Commission say that the lawlessness in fishing in the close season appears to have been getting worse, being openly carried on by day as well as night. A good number of cases of assault on bailiffs had occurred, and the throwing of stones has been mentioned. The police, though sufficient for ordinary purposes, because the people were in sympathy with the ordinary law, were not sufficient to protect the bailiffs, as the people were entirely out of sympathy with the special Tweed Acts. The opinion was expressed that, if the body of the people could be turned into sympathy with the law, the bailiffs would have no trouble, or,

at any rate, less trouble, and these attacks would be put down. There is much more to be said to the same effect, but the facts are of such common notoriety (and the state of matters has been going rapidly from bad to worse), that I do not dwell upon them at the present time, because I believe they are perfectly within the knowledge of all the noble Lords who are interested in salmon fisheries in this district, and probably many more besides. The end of it is, that the main recommendation of this Commission was to the effect that the special Tweed Acts should be abolished, and that the general law should be applied to the Tweed. In support of that opinion the Commissioners expressed their belief that if this was to be carried out the objection to some of the clauses, at any rate, of the Acts which have been referred to, would be met by their repeal. Section 45 of the Act of 1857, which forbids the use of nets in certain parts of the sea during the close season; Section 50, which forbids the possession of nets within five miles of the river by unauthorised persons, and especially Section 69, have given rise to a great deal of bad feeling, and I believe myself there is evidence for saying, a certain amount of injustice. The latter is known as the intent clause. It allows an attempt to take salmon illegally to be inferred under certain circumstances—not to be proved, but to be inferred. There is also that part of Section 82, which provides that persons accused before a court, if they do not appear, may be held as having confessed to being guilty, and be fined in their absence without proof being laid. These are only instances of some of the clauses of the Tweed Acts, which had led to the state of feeling which the Commission described. It is also the case that the repeal of the special Acts and the substitution of the general law will carry with it the abolition of the body called the Tweed Commission, and it will set up in its place a district board, subject in all respects to the general law. On account of the length of the river and the magnitude of the interests involved, we propose, by the Bill, that that board shall be rather more numerous in numbers than it would be under the general law. Apart from all these detailed changes, the broad advantage which I believe will be secured by the Bill will be that the feeling of fishermen, who believe that they are at

Lord Balfour of Burleigh.

present more unfairly dealt with than fishermen in other districts, will be removed by their being placed under the general law. I propose to allude to one other matter, and that is Section 8 of the Bill. Section 8 keeps the present annual close time of the Tweed. The present close time of the Tweed is, I understand, stereotyped by Act of Parliament, and cannot be altered. If the river is placed under the general law there would be power, under the procedure therein provided, upon the petition of persons interested, to have the particular dates altered, always provided that the maximum number of 168 days was retained. In addition to that, there would be power to alter the weekly close time, which at present is only thirty-six hours, or, at least, twelve hours shorter than what is usual under more recent Acts. There is one special provision also to which I should allude. At the present time, on the Tweed, it is not lawful to possess a "gaff" at any time of the year. Under the general law, as your Lordships know, that is not the case. We propose to maintain that prohibition. I was very much tempted to attempt to alter it, so far as the general law is concerned, and prevent the gaffing of kelts, which by law have to be returned into the river. It seems to me not only a wasteful and foolish, but a cruel practice, and I personally would be very glad to prohibit it if possible; but I do not wish to raise more objections to this particular Bill than are absolutely necessary. Therefore I avoid in it any attempt to amend the general law. I am far from thinking that this Bill will cure all the evils under which the river Tweed is suffering. I believe it will make a step if it is carried—a long step—towards a more satisfactory state of matters, and that it will make it more easy to introduce much-needed reforms. While I am not hopeful that the Bill will be accepted with unanimity, I have a great hope that a careful study of its provisions, and the full Memorandum which is attached to it, will clear away a great deal of opposition, and that in another session of Parliament we may hope to see it passed into law. I beg to move that the Bill be read a first time.

THE MARQUESS OF LOTHIAN:
I congratulate my noble friend on having

introduced this Bill. I have not had the pleasure of seeing the Bill, and I can only gather what will be the effect of it from the observations of my noble friend. I am more glad to see the Bill brought in now, because, when I was holding the office in 1888 of Secretary for Scotland, I introduced a Bill for the same object. Owing, however, to opposition in the House of Commons, that Bill failed to receive the sanction of Parliament, and did not become law. I have always felt very strongly that the provisions of the Tweed Acts have been anomalous. A difficulty, however, arose in the matter, which probably my noble friend has been able to get over. Some of the rivers which fall into the Tweed are on the English side, and therefore, if they were included under the general law, there might be a conflict of jurisdiction, as the English side might wish to be under the English general law. I have no doubt my noble friend has succeeded in getting over that difficulty, and I feel certain the Bill which he has introduced will be of great advantage to the fisheries on the Tweed. Before saying whether I altogether approve of the abolition of the Tweed Commissioners, and the placing of the powers of that body in the hands of a district board, I should like to see the details of the Bill. Under the Bill many of the restrictions now imposed, and many of the disadvantages which are experienced in the higher reaches of the Tweed, will be done away with, and the fishermen there will be put on a more equal footing with those in the lower reaches. When the Bill is before us, I shall give it my earnest consideration.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH : With regard to the point raised by the noble Marquess, I may say that it is the intention in this Bill that the Tweed and all its tributaries, whether in England or in Scotland, should be under the Scottish law.

On Question, agreed to.

Bill to repeal the Tweed Fisheries Acts, and to provide for the application of the Salmon Fisheries (Scotland) Acts

to the district of the River Tweed—Was presented by the Lord Balfour ; read 1st ; and to be printed. (No. 213.)

THE NEW WAR OFFICE—MODELS OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

***THE EARL OF WEMYSS :** My Lords, I rise to move :

“ That, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that models of all public buildings of importance that are about to be erected at the public cost should be made and publicly exhibited, and that this is more especially to be desired at the present time.”

I would ask the indulgence of your Lordships while I bring this resolution under, I hope, your favourable consideration. Those of your Lordships who may have chanced to go to the Victoria Gallery will have seen the plans that are exhibited there, and will have noticed, perhaps, some writing of mine attached thereto, to the effect that no wise man in private life builds without the aid of models ; and that what is so desirable and sensible a practice in private buildings applies with greater force to public buildings erected by a public department at the public cost. A memorial has been presented to the Government, very numerous and very influentially signed, asking practically that what this Resolution proposes should be done by the Government, and that models of all intended public buildings of importance should be shown, more especially at the present time. This memorial was sent by me to the noble Marquess at the head of the Government, and the answer I got from him was that he would not interfere, an answer I received almost within twenty-four hours of the time the noble Marquess received that memorial. The system I propose is an almost universal custom abroad. Not only are models shown, but it is usual to put up sections of the building in the rough, and there is an architectural term that applies to that process. They talk in architecture of things being “ offered up.” This custom is adopted in France. In Italy they go to the extent of having a *plébi-scite* on public intended improvements and art decorations. Thus, recently, when the façade of the Duomo at Florence was to be finished and decorated, casts of what was proposed were “ offered up,” and the opinion of the general public thereon was invited, with the happiest results. But what do the Office of Works and

Her Majesty's Government do here? Drawings only are shown—and where? In the tea room of the House of Commons, to which, I believe, no one can gain admission unless personally conducted by a Member of that House. The plans were also shown for three days in the Victoria Gallery: such is the Government's view of an architectural art *plébiscite*. But in asking Her Majesty's Government to adopt the system of models I am not asking them simply to follow a private or foreign practice, for the system was successfully adopted in our own country when Sir Henry Layard was First Commissioner of Works. It was suggested to him that a model should be made of this part of Greater Westminster, showing all the existing public and other buildings, which were all made removable. The model was twice as large as the Table of your Lordships' House, costing £1,500, and the last occasion on which it was used was in that of the proposed Admiralty offices. At that time there was a design for a new Admiralty. The proposed building was shown in model, with a tower next the Horse Guards 300 feet high, and it so shocked the public who saw it that the plan was knocked on the head. How the present Admiralty Offices grew up I cannot say, with its towers and buildings springing up every day like mushrooms. Nobody has seen this building in model, and I contend that if these new Admiralty buildings had been thus shown in model like the designs for the previous one, they would have been equally condemned, and you would have had the site differently treated. The memorial which I had the honour of sending to Lord Salisbury pointed out that, in the opinion of the memorialists, the building of a new War Office on the historic site of the intended Whitehall Palace offered a unique and last opportunity of realising, at least in part, Inigo Jones's grand design for the said palace—of which the banqueting hall alone was built. The memorialists continue:

"We pray Her Majesty's Government to have models made and publicly exhibited of the proposed War Office, and of a suggested adaptation of Inigo Jones's design—now on view in the Victoria Gallery—which, it is believed, might, without difficulty, be made to meet all War Office requirements, while it would present a more imposing symmetric and extended front—immediately facing the Horse Guards—than the design that has been

officially adopted. In respectfully making this request we are only asking in the public interest, and for the sake of those who come after us, that all possible care and precautions should be taken to ensure the erection of a War Office building in all ways worthy of the site; and that by the public exhibition of models, as proposed, successful precedents, established in the case of designs for public buildings by Her Majesty's Office of Works, should now be followed."

As regards the design which has been officially adopted I do not like to speak strongly against it. I recommended Mr. Young, the architect to the Board of Works. He is a most able man, but I must say that in my opinion the plan which he has shown is not a satisfactory one, and the way in which he proposes to connect the main building with the banqueting hall is simply senseless—viz., by a statue in the centre of the roadway and meaningless obstructive archways over the foot-pavements. Now many objections have been made, and will be raised, against the suggested adaptation of part of Inigo Jones's design for Whitehall Palace to the proposed War Office. Let me anticipate them. The first objection is that Inigo Jones's design was for a palace and is not suited for a Government office. My answer is that Somerset House is a palace—the finest, most palatial building in London—and yet it is devoted to Government offices. Further, it is a libel on architects to say that given the suggested Inigo Jones frontage and the War Office site they could not adapt these to all needful requirements. Let it at least be tried. This has not yet been done. The second objection is that the banqueting hall would be overshadowed by the centre of the proposed Inigo Jones elevation. It will not be overshadowed more than it was in the original design of which they both formed part. The third objection is that the arches across the road that leads to the Whitehall Mansions would be dark tunnels. My answer is that they will be considerably wider, higher, and lighter in proportion than the present Horse Guards Arch, through which Her Majesty and the Jubilee procession managed to pass two years ago. The fourth objection is that rooms over archways are objectionable, and that Inigo Jones would not have dreamed of such a thing. My answer is that at Stanway, in Gloucestershire, there is a "gatehouse" by Inigo Jones. Further, his Whitehall

The Earl of Wemyss.

Palace consists of a series of courts with archways leading to them, over which rooms are built; and how as to Somerset House, Buckingham Palace, St. James's Palace, the Palace of Westminster, the Foreign and India Offices, Windsor Castle, the Louvre, etc., including every house in Paris or elsewhere with a *porte cochère*? All these are liable to the same objection. But such an objection is childish, and I pass on to objection No. 5, which is that the proposed adaptation is "tampering" with Inigo Jones's work and "defaming" his memory. It is hard to see how Inigo Jones's work will be tampered with or his memory defamed by an endeavour—to use the words of the memorial—to "avail ourselves of this unique and last opportunity of realising, at least in part, Inigo Jones's grand design for Whitehall Palace, of which the banqueting hall alone was built; the proposed façade, moreover, being simply taken from Inigo Jones's design. As to the banqueting hall, with its splendid ceiling painted by Rubens, it is now used as a United Service Museum, containing old uniforms and arms. On the other hand it is proposed in the suggested adaptation scheme to utilise it as a fitting hall for War Office and Government official receptions, allotting a portion of the War Office site facing Whitehall Mansions to the Royal United Service Institution, which would be thus better accommodated than it now is. It may be said that the foundations for the new War Office are now laid. I was told that they were, but I recently walked over the site and I found that no foundations had yet been laid. I may also be told that the contract has been entered into. I do not care if it has. Any man with a knowledge of building knows that a contract consists of certain scheduled work at certain prices. If another plan is adopted you have only to hand the contract to the same man at the same scheduled rate of prices, and, if there are any differences, you can settle the matter by arbitration. I repudiate the idea that if the contract is taken it puts a stop to any other plans being adopted than the one the Government propose. If a model such as I have suggested had been prepared in connection with the new Government buildings in Whitehall the defects of the architect's design in relation to the surrounding buildings would at once have been apparent. Now all matters affecting

public buildings are, we know, entirely in the hands of the Board of Works. I have had a long experience of Parliamentary life, beginning in the year 1841, and I have taken a great interest in these questions; been a member of Commissions thereon, and followed the action of the Office of Works with regard to public buildings and monuments, and I have no hesitation in saying that its career has been marked by many blunders. How can it be otherwise? How is the First Commissioner of Works appointed? Is he appointed because of any special aptitude with regard to buildings? Not at all. Sir Henry Layard was the only First Commissioner in my time who had any special aptitude in this line. The office is simply treated as a halfway house between an Under Secretaryship and a seat in the Cabinet. The present holder of the office happens to be in the Cabinet. But I suppose that is because he has been a Whip, for in these days, when politics rest not on principles but on bribes, it is necessary to have in the Cabinet a gentleman who can tell the best way to bait the political hook, whether with an old pensioner or a young shopgirl. Let me, then, now give some instances of the deplorable doings of the Board of Works in my time and generation. The Wellington statue on the Hyde Park Arch we owed to the Office of Works. Then, that same Office of Works proposed to make a carriage way—where there is now a footway—across the water of St. James' Park. That, happily, we stopped. They intended to maintain permanently the Exhibition building of 1862 along Cromwell Road. This they were forced by a vote of the House of Commons to pull down. A Commission decided, as regards the Kensington Museum, in favour of Captain Fowkes', R.E., design; this being selected in a competition to which many distinguished architects had sent drawings. Has this premeditated design been followed? By no means. It was Classic in style. Mr. W. Cowper, then First Commissioner, approved it, but his successor, Lord John Manners, the present Duke of Rutland, was Gothic in his architectural tastes, threw it over, and to him we owe the present Natural History Museum in Cromwell Road. What the new Kensington Museum will be we only know through what appeared in the public prints on the day of the laying of its

foundation stone by Her Majesty. Yet this new building will cost, it is said, £800,000! Again, when Sir B. Hall was head of the Office of Works he put down £1,000 in the Estimates for a red polished granite pedestal for Charles I. statue at Charing Cross; the present original pedestal being the work of G. Gibbons! Well, this was resisted, and the Gibbons' pedestal was grouted and saved. To Mr. Shaw-Lefevre we owe much when he was First Commissioner. It was he moved the Wellington Arch and placed it on the slope of Constitution Hill—thus giving it a long and short leg—a thing quite unique in arches. He was responsible for the flight of stairs and the griffons in Westminster Hall, that entirely alter the character of that grand old pile. When I first saw the stairs and griffons it was at the time of the Fenian excitement, and I said to the policeman on duty, "I do not think the Fenians could have done worse than this," and the policeman, who was evidently a man of taste, replied, "I do not think they could, my Lord." To Mr. Lefevre we owe also the Portrait Gallery at the back of the National Gallery—with which it is in immediate connection—and of which it may be said architecturally to form part, and yet it is in style wholly different. Lastly, it was Mr. Shaw-Lefevre who destroyed Sir C. Barry's St. Stephen's entrance to the Palace of Westminster by building up against one side of it a buttress of Westminster Hall. Again, was there ever a more dreadful building seen in this world than the United Service Institution building adjoining the banqueting hall? The Board of Works is responsible for that; but if the façade of Inigo Jones were taken, this and the banqueting hall would be included, and you would have a very beautiful building. Of the new Admiralty I have already spoken, and will say no more; save that with its many minarets it reminds one of the Water Court at Earl's Court, where Savage Africa is now located. But perhaps the most audacious, and I might say atrocious, thing done by the Office of Works was when Mr. Ayrton was First Commissioner. Do you know what he did to Kensington Gardens? He absolutely destroyed them, altering the whole symmetric plan. He actually stopped and planted up the Broad Walk half way, diverting it to the Albert Memorial, and to do this, cut

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down forty of the old Kensington elms. That was done without the knowledge of the public, and at the *ipse dixit* of the gentleman who for the time held the office of Chief Commissioner, and who had boasted, when he took office, that he was neither a mason nor a market gardener. I have thought it desirable to point to these things, for the reason that our experience of the Board of Works is not such as to justify giving that Department a blank sheet of paper whereon to write what they like—and not allowing those who pay for these things any voice in the matter. I have received a letter from the Duke of Abercorn, in which he says:—

"I regret that, being in Ireland, I cannot support your motion for to-morrow (Friday). Had I been present, I should certainly have voted for it. He who pays should have some voice, or, at any rate, some eye in viewing, what he has to pay for. At the present time all these new public buildings are left entirely in the hands of some official, or whoever may for the moment be head of a public Department."

I think, my Lords, I have said enough to justify my motion. I merely add that the memorial I had the honour of presenting to Lord Salisbury was one of the most weighty ever presented. It included among the 139 signatories, one archbishop, several bishops, six dukes, two field marshals—Lord Roberts and Lord Wolseley—and the names of peers on either side, including the Marquis of Ripon, the Earl of Kimberley, and Lord Tweedmouth, *plus* Lord Lorne. A memorial such as this deserves, I think, consideration, especially when all that the memorialists ask is that, for the sake of those who come after us, all possible care and precaution should be taken to ensure the erection of War Office buildings in all ways worthy of the site. On the strength of this memorial I speak and act.

Moved, to resolve that, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that models of all public buildings of importance that are about to be erected at the public cost should be made and publicly exhibited; and that is more especially to be desired at the present time.—(The Lord Wemyss, *E. Wemyss.*)

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The Marquess of LANSDOWNE): My Lords, it requires some courage to gainsay the noble Earl, who comes here

to-night, not only with all his usual ardour and conviction, but fortified by the moral, if not material, support of the noble Lords, a list of whose styles and titles he has read to the House. I can assure him that we are very far indeed from desiring to treat the memorial with any disrespect. On the contrary, I like to reflect that the object of the memorialists and our object are the same. We all of us desire that upon a site of this importance, and for a purpose of such importance, no building should be erected either unworthy of the site or inharmonious with its surroundings. Although I desire to treat the memorial with all possible respect, I must be allowed to scrutinise it a little closely. The noble Earl asks us for models. He proposes that a model should be exhibited whenever a public building is about to be erected, in order to protect the public against the erection of an unworthy or inartistic structure, and, above all, in order that there may be an appeal from the Government of the day to some other tribunal, the precise character of which he certainly failed to explain to the House.

***THE EARL OF WEMYSS :** Public opinion, to which all Governments have to submit.

***THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE :** The noble Earl spoke of an old model made in the time of Sir Henry Layard. I have made inquiries about that model, and find that it was a large model on a very small scale, and was constructed of very perishable materials. I believe a few fragments have been discovered, but it was constructed thirty or forty years ago, and it is not surprising that it should have paid the debt of nature. I fancy our ironclads do not last much longer, and it is scarcely surprising that this fragile structure of cardboard—

***THE EARL OF WEMYSS :** I beg the noble Marquess's pardon. The model was made of wood.

***THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE :** At any rate, it was extremely fragile, and is, I am afraid, no longer available. I should like to ask your Lordships whether it is quite so clear, as the noble Earl would have us believe, that there is much

instruction to be gained from the exhibition of the models of proposed buildings? A model on a table never by any chance presents the appearance of the actual building—you see the model as you might see the building from the top of the Duke of York's Column, a point of view from which the noble Earl on the cross benches is very fond of regarding men and things in general. We humbler individuals contemplate these structures from the pavement as we walk on our way to Westminster. Again, a model would enable you to regulate the size and proportion of buildings erected on Government ground, but what power does it give you of regulating buildings erected immediately alongside on ground which is not the property of the Government? Take the case of the proposed new War Office buildings. You might adjust the height of those buildings to the height of the surrounding Government buildings, but the huge building immediately behind it, Whitehall Court, might put out the whole scale of proportion. As regards the War Office buildings, it is impossible to comply with the request for a model, but in regard to buildings to be erected hereafter, the Chief Commissioner of Works will consider the suggestion; the right hon. Gentleman tells me that he regards the subject with a perfectly open mind. The greater part of the speech of the noble Earl was an indictment of the manner in which plans for new public buildings are designed and prepared, and those of your Lordships who signed the memorial may not be fully aware of the steps taken by Her Majesty's Government when the matter was dealt with. In the first place, we decided that we would not adopt the procedure of inviting competitive designs. It was this system of competition which led to the construction of several of those buildings of which the noble Earl spoke in terms of strong but, I must say, not wholly unmerited condemnation. The result of recourse to competitive designs is, I believe, generally admitted to be unsatisfactory, and there is also this to be remembered, that many of our best architects refuse altogether to take part in such competitions. Therefore, we put that procedure aside, and this is what we did. We invited the Institute of British Architects, which, after all, is a body whose professional reputation in regard to architectural matters is higher than that of any other

body in the country, to recommend the names of a certain number of architects who, in their opinion, were well qualified to undertake a building of this sort. A list of names was sent in to Her Majesty's Government, and a Committee of the Cabinet considered those names, and also designs of work already carried out by the gentlemen in question. We selected from the list two gentlemen, Mr. Young and Mr. Brydon, both architects with a very considerable reputation. With regard to Mr. Young, the Committee were a good deal attracted towards him by the excellence of the work which he has carried out for the noble Earl himself at his seat in Scotland. These two gentlemen sent in designs for the new Public Offices, and these were examined by a Committee presided over by the President of the Institute of British Architects, who is Professor of Architecture to the Royal Academy. Then the designs were published in the month of March. The noble Earl seems to think that the publication consisted simply of hanging them up in the tea-room of the House of Commons, but they were published in all the architectural newspapers, and in various illustrated papers. They were commented upon in every direction, and I say, without hesitation, that on the whole the verdict of public opinion upon them was exceedingly favourable. That was in the month of March, and now, in August, the noble Earl comes down to this House and asks us to undo everything we have done. He spoke of the extent to which we had gone in the matter of contracts. I will tell the House exactly how we stand in that matter. The plans and specifications have all been prepared, and they are ready for the quantity surveyor. It is true that we have not laid any foundations, but the ground has been broken in order to test it for that purpose, and the work will proceed very shortly. To ask us now to hold our hands and begin again seems to be an altogether unreasonable proposal. The site alone, lying idle, costs the country £20,000 a year, and to my mind it has lain idle quite long enough. I speak rather feelingly on this subject, because one of the offices to be accommodated is the office with which I am connected. The War Office at this moment is scattered about in no less than eleven different buildings, an intolerable state of things, which interferes to an extent which I do

not suppose anybody realises with the efficient conduct of business, and we protest against any further delay in supplying us with a suitable home. How is the noble Earl going to take a *plébiscite* on this matter of plans? He says by appealing to public opinion. Supposing that, as a result of the noble Earl's *plébiscite*, our plan had been condemned and another one substituted, what would there be to prevent some other self-constituted arbiter saying he must have another *plébiscite* on a different set of plans? To speak plainly, this is a case of *sprete injuriu formæ*. What is in the noble Earl's mind is a preference for his own plan — Inigo Jones's plan, if you like—but the plan which he has fathered and put before the public as the rival to our plan. I admit at the outset that in the noble Earl's plan there is a very beautiful façade, but the building is entirely unsuited for public offices.

*THE EARL OF WEMYSS: My point is that it can be made so.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I will come to that in a moment. I do not think the noble Earl's building would stand the ordeal by model. It would completely dwarf and overshadow the Horse Guards; it would cut the site to waste in the most reckless manner; it would cost more money, and it would produce only 17,000 ft. of floor space, instead of 29,000 ft. as in the Government plan.

*THE EARL OF WEMYSS: I have a right to ask how those figures are calculated.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: They are the figures that were given to me, and I believe them to be the result of a trustworthy examination.

*THE EARL OF WEMYSS: They are absolutely worthless.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: The noble Earl spoke of the bridge by which, in his plan, the banqueting hall is to be connected with the central building. Where you are obliged to have a bridge it may be harmless enough, but I cannot conceive anybody in their senses deliberately putting up a bridge of this kind as part of a public office. It may be a useful way of passing from one block of a hospital for infectious diseases to another block, but it cer-

tainly is not a convenient way of passing from one part of a public office to another part of the same office. The noble Earl spoke airily of the expropriation of the United Service Institution. But the Institution would have to be reckoned with, and would, I presume, have to be provided with a home elsewhere, as would also the Charity Commissioners, who would be swept away by the destroying hand of the noble Earl. My main objection to the noble Earl's plan is the objection which he anticipated—namely, that his plan is the plan of a palace, and not of a public office. The noble Earl says in his memorial that it is believed that his plan could easily be adapted to the wants of the War Office. We believe nothing of the sort. We are convinced to the contrary. I submit that rooms thirty feet high are not the kind of rooms into which you want to put the clerks in a public office, and there is only one way in which the adaptation the noble Earl suggests could be carried out, and that is by dividing these lofty rooms horizontally by means of a floor, with the result that you would give one half of one of these big windows to the top floor and the other half to the lower floor. What would be the result? The men on the lower floor would get the bottom half of the window, and could not possibly see out of it; while the men in the room above would have the top half of the window, which would be close to the ground, with the result that it would throw no light into the room. In one or two of the existing offices an arrangement of that kind has been attempted, but it has proved most inconvenient and inconsistent with the proper discharge of the work of the offices. The fact is, the noble Earl begins at the wrong end. Instead of saying, "I want a public office containing such and such accommodation; give me a beautiful building to put it into," he says, "Here is a beautiful building, shove your public office into it; it has got to get in there somehow." The noble Earl is thinking entirely of the external appearance of these buildings; I am thinking not only of the outside, but of the occupants. When I say that, I trust your Lordships will not think that I am solicitous for future Secretaries of State or Under Secretaries of State. They are birds of passage who come and go, and who rarely stay for more than four or five years, and they generally

take the best rooms. I am thinking of humbler people—the permanent officials—the War Office clerks, without whom the administration of the Army could not be carried on, who will inhabit these rooms. They are in for life, and I want them to have rooms of proper shape, properly ventilated, and with proper communication between one room and another. In that respect our plan gives us all that we could desire, and it is at that point that the plan of the noble Earl hopelessly breaks down, and no amount of adaptation will make it fulfil the requirements on which we insist. I know the noble Earl attaches great importance to symmetry in these matters, but it is too late to think of arranging all the approaches of Westminster on a symmetrical plan. The buildings are there; they are not ranged symmetrically in line, and I do not think the result of this trifling irregularity is otherwise than pleasing. I very much prefer an irregularity of that sort to a monotonous boulevard, symmetrical from end to end. At any rate, it is too late to think of arranging these buildings in symmetrical fashion, and we contend that our building, although it may not exactly front the Horse Guards, as the noble Earl would wish, will be a very useful and ornamental addition to the buildings which already surround Whitehall, and it is our fixed intention to go on with the construction of the building as rapidly as possible. I will not follow the noble Earl in the latter part of his speech, in which, after giving us a few ideas on the construction of public offices, he gave us hints on the subject of the construction of Cabinets. I am afraid that his notions upon the one subject are almost as unpractical as are his theories in regard to the others; at any rate, whenever a new Prime Minister is called upon to bring together a Government, I shall be very much surprised if it is found that he is able to do so upon the lines which the noble Earl has suggested for his guidance.

***LORD STANMORE:** My Lords, I cannot refrain from expressing, though very shortly, the deep regret I feel that Her Majesty's Government should have met the motion of my noble friend in the manner they have done, for I fear it means that we must take it for granted that another grand opportunity is about to be lost, as so many grand opportunities

have been lost before, of embellishing this metropolis by the erection of public buildings really worthy of the admiration of the country to which they belong. As it is, our buildings are too often a subject of derision to those who come to see them from afar, and Her Majesty's Government are mistaken if they think that the public are at all gratified by public buildings being erected at a cheap cost and in great haste. I fear, from the tone of the noble Marquess's speech, that it is quite impossible to get him to perceive even the spirit in which this matter is regarded by those who have a real love for art and architecture. The noble Marquess urges that the War Office wants immediate accommodation for its clerks, that there is no time to be lost in getting that accommodation, and that it must be provided at once. If that is so, why not build a temporary iron and glass shed? I am certain the public at large would rather that the War Office clerks should wait another year for the building than that one should be erected which should not be worthy of this great Empire. The noble Marquess says a palace will not do for a public office. I have known public offices in Paris, Vienna, Berlin, and in Amsterdam, which have very much the likeness of a palace, and are yet not unfit for use. You have an unequalled site, and a magnificent plan by a dead architect. It is quite natural that living architects should prefer a plan by one of themselves, but Her Majesty's Government, in my humble opinion, should have simply given instructions to adopt, as far as it could be adopted, the plan of Inigo Jones. How anyone, having the power to do that, and having that site in hand, should have thought of erecting anything upon it except the magnificent design planned by one of the greatest English architects for that very site I cannot conceive. I have not a word to say against Mr. Young's plans. These are, I believe, effective; but to compare Mr. Young with Inigo Jones is to compare the infinitely small with the infinitely great. I have only risen to express my surprise and deep regret at the apparent incapacity of Her Majesty's Government to see what is really the question at issue, and to express my strong belief that the country at large does desire to see buildings erected which shall be worthy of the Empire, and would certainly not demur

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to a larger expenditure being incurred for this purpose. I am sorry I cannot myself throw any light on the moot question, which the noble Marquess and my noble friend must fight out themselves, as to the temporary or permanent nature of the model. I have never seen it, but I have had the honour of being on intimate terms with Sir Henry Layard, and I know that in his opinion it was not a temporary model. He was of opinion that it was a model which might be preserved for a long time to come, and on which all buildings on that site should be exhibited. The noble Marquess says they are of no use at all, looked at from above. I would venture to suggest, with all submission, that this depends on the height of their pedestals.

*THE EARL OF WEMYSS: There were one or two points raised by the noble Marquess which require an answer. He objects to models, and he said you could only see models from a height, looking down on the chimneys. Is it not possible to conceive, without any great stretch of imagination on my noble friend's part, that there is a possibility of raising the model to the level of your eye? In that case his chimney-pot argument falls to the ground, and in his objections to models the noble Marquess is opposed to well known practice in this and other countries. It was the use of a model which settled the tower at the Admiralty. As regards the model in question, if it is destroyed its destruction is due to the way it has been taken care of. It was made of solid wood, and was perfectly sound ten years ago. The Board of Works have either lost it or broken it up, probably the latter, as they were afraid to show their work, having in view the good result which was attained by the exhibition of a model in regard to other places. With reference to the banqueting hall, there is no question of going from the lower ground of the War Office to the banqueting hall, because I expressly stated that the idea was that the banqueting hall should be reserved for the receptions of my noble friend. I repudiate and deny altogether the statement that you cannot turn Inigo Jones's palace into a public office. There are trade unions everywhere, even among architects, and they naturally stand by one another in this matter, and would not select the plan of a dead architect if they

could help it. When I showed the President of the Institute of British Architects the plan for the adaptation of Inigo Jones's design, he could not deny that it was a beautiful building, but he remarked, "There would be nothing to show the architecture of the nineteenth century." What my reply was your Lordships may imagine. I blessed the architecture of the nineteenth century, and said I preferred Inigo Jones's. One thing is clear, viz., that my noble friend's views on architecture and his speech are taken from a recent article in the *Builder*. Now that was evidently not written by an architect, but by a hod-man, accustomed to the throwing of bricks and rubbish. Further, when the noble Marquess dies, which, for his family's sake, I hope will not be for many years to come, he will require no monument such as they put up to him for his good government of India, because he will leave the hospital for which he alone is responsible on the rock of Edinburgh Castle, and this building behind him. I venture to think that the action of the Government is nothing short of treason to posterity, a betrayal of a temporary trust, and an audacious act on the part of chance, temporary, self-sufficient authorities. These are my last words, but I shall certainly divide the House even if I vote alone.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (The DUKE of NORFOLK): My Lords, I venture to appeal to the noble Earl, having expressed his feelings with great vigour and strength, to consider whether he could not be content with the expression of opinion his motion has elicited. The thing having, unfortunately, gone so far, no good purpose will be served by a factious opposition. Personal experience has taught me that models of intended buildings are of great use, and I hope the Government will take into consideration whether, in future, when public buildings are to be erected, models cannot be provided.

THE MARQUESS OF LOTHIAN: It has been said that it is too late now to raise the question, but I should like to say that two or three months ago I asked for a model of these new buildings.

***THE EARL OF WEMYSS:** I asked for it more than six months ago.

THE MARQUESS OF LOTHIAN: And that model was refused on behalf of Her Majesty's Government. I hope that the Government will take into consideration what has fallen from the noble Earl and the noble Duke, and that in future models will be exhibited of all proposed public buildings. I do not think it is at all fair that the taxpayers should be called upon to pay for buildings, which might be very bad, and which they have no opportunity of saying beforehand whether they like or not. I am glad this discussion has given the noble Marquess an opportunity of explaining how the Government plan was selected. I think on the whole the action of the Government was fairly satisfactory, but I hope that in future models will be exhibited. I hope that the banqueting hall will be put to another purpose than that to which it is at present devoted, and for which it is ill suited. The noble Marquess and a great many of your Lordships will recollect that before Mr. Stanhope left office the last thing he did was to give an entertainment in the banqueting hall, and the whole thing was done in a most splendid manner. Anyone who saw that hall, decorated as it was, must have left it with the firm conviction that it would be an immense national loss if it were used for any other purpose. It is, as I have said, unsuitable for the exhibition for which it is now used; the space is too great, and a much smaller room would be equally if not better adapted for the purpose. I would suggest that the noble Marquess should try and make some arrangement by which the hall should be used as a place in which public entertainments can be given by Her Majesty's Ministers.

***THE EARL OF WEMYSS:** I wish to state that after the appeal which has been made to me, and which, I think, ought to have more effect with the Government than any Division, even if it went hostile to them, I do not intend to divide the House, but I hope the noble Marquess will take into consideration the words of his colleague.

Motion (by leave of the House) withdrawn.

COLONIAL LOANS BILL.

Read 2^a [according to Order]; Committees negatived: Then Standing Order

No. XXXIX. considered [according to Order], and dispensed with: Then Bill read 3^a, and passed.

INEBRIATES ACT (1898) AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING.

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

LORD BELPER: My Lords, this small Bill applies to purely technical matters in the Inebriates Act of last year. The object of Clause 1 is to make the expenses of all prosecutions under Section 2 of the Inebriates Act, 1898, which provides for the detention of habitual drunkards, payable as in cases of felony. Under Section 6 of the Inebriates Act, 1898, the Secretary of State may make regulations with respect to Inebriate Reformatories, and may thereby impose a fine not exceeding £20, or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months, with or without hard labour, for the breach of any such regulations. The object of Clause 2 is merely to make it clear that breaches of these regulations may, where they involve fine or imprisonment, be dealt with by Courts of Summary Jurisdiction.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^a."—(*Lord Belper.*)

On Question, agreed to.

Bill read 2^a accordingly; Committees negatived: Then Standing Order No. XXXIX. considered [according to Order], and dispensed with: Then Bill read 3^a, and passed.

NAVAL WORKS BILL.

TELEGRAPHS (TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION) BILL.

House in Committee [according to Order]: Bills reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived: Then Standing Order No. XXXIX. considered [according to Order], and dispensed with: Bills read 3^a, and passed.

EXPIRING LAWS CONTINUANCE BILL.

PUBLIC WORKS (LOANS) BILL.

TANCRED'S CHARITIES SCHEME CONFIRMATION BILL.

Read 2^a [according to Order]: Committees negatived; and Bills to be read 3^a on Monday next.

BOARD OF EDUCATION BILL.

Commons Amendments considered [according to Order].

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The DUKE of DEVONSHIRE): The Commons Amendments to this Bill are not of any great importance. I do not observe on the other side a large number of noble Lords who appear to entertain any curiosity on the subject, and therefore, as there is no burning desire to hear any remarks from me, I beg to move that the Amendments made in another place be agreed to. I shall be prepared, however, to express my views if any noble Lord desires.

Commons Amendments agreed to.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (DEFECTIVE AND EPILEPTIC CHILDREN) BILL [H.L.].

POOR LAW ACTS AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.].

Commons Amendments considered [according to Order], and agreed to.

BATHS AND WASHHOUSES ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING.

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: My Lords, the object of this Bill is to assimilate the law in respect of baths and washhouses situated outside the metropolis to that of those which are situated within. During those months in the year when the baths are closed there is power, in the metropolis, to use them for public recreation. The proposal in this Bill is that this power should be given in connection with baths that are outside the metropolis, provided that a proper licence is obtained from the authorities in whose area the baths are situated.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^a."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, agreed to.

Read 2^a [according to Order], and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next, and Standing

Order No. XXXIX. to be considered in order to its being dispensed with.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

ROYAL NIGER COMPANY BILL.

LAND TAX COMMISSIONERS' NAMES BILL.

PATRIOTIC FUND BILL.

RESERVE FORCES BILL.

MILITARY WORKS BILL.

Read 3^a [according to Order], and passed.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION (LONDON) BILL [H.L.].

Commons Amendments considered [on motion], and agreed to.

QUESTIONS.

THE CONVEYANCE OF MILITIA.

THE MARQUESS OF LOTHIAN : I rise to ask the Secretary of State for War who was responsible for the arrangements made for the return of the 3rd Battalion the Royal Scots from Salisbury Plain to their dépôt at Glencorse. The question may appear one of trivial importance, and one which might be considered unworthy of being referred to in your Lordships' House, but I think this impression will be removed when I state the facts. I was in active command of this battalion for some time, and I am now its honorary colonel. The battalion was ordered to Aldershot, and it accomplished the journey from Glencorse in the reasonable space of twelve hours. The battalion consisted of 500 men, and was divided into two trains; but on the return journey, for reasons, I presume, of economy, the whole battalion of 500 men, with their officers, arms, and accoutrements were conveyed in one train, drawn by a single engine, with the result that the journey occupied about twenty-three hours instead of twelve hours. When the train arrived at Clapham, it was an hour and a half late, and part of the further delay was caused by the discovery that the

baggage and accoutrements had been placed in wagons which would not pass through the tunnels of the Underground Railway, and the trans-shipment of the loads, which was performed by twenty-two or twenty-three bricklayers, took some three hours. I have not heard what the damage to the accoutrements amounted to, but it must have been considerable. They eventually got to King's Cross, where they were detained for a considerable time. This enormous train then went on with one engine, and two of the couplings broke on the journey. If all this happened when it was known four weeks beforehand that these men, with their arms and accoutrements, were to be sent by a certain railway to Scotland, what would happen in the case of mobilisation in a hurry? One moral is that the War Office should see that either all tunnels are sufficiently high to enable all trucks to go through, or that the trucks, on which arms and accoutrements are likely to be placed, should be so constructed as to go under any tunnel in the United Kingdom. There is another point I wish to raise. The noble Marquess has done all in his power to make the Militia service more popular, and I tender him my hearty thanks for what he has done; but it must be remembered that during the whole of the twenty-three hours occupied by the journey the men were locked in the carriages, and not allowed to leave for any purpose whatever. The officers of the battalion had made arrangements for the men to get refreshments at York and other places on the way, but, owing to the delay, they got nothing to eat or drink the whole twenty-three hours. They may have been very happy at Salisbury Plain, but such incidents as this are bound to have a bad effect on recruiting. The dreadful treatment these men received will probably be related all over the country, and it is not likely to encourage recruiting in the district to which the men belong. I am sure the noble Marquess will do what he possibly can to see that such a state of things is not likely to occur again.

***THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE :** My Lords, I have not yet received any official information with regard to the very regrettable incident to which my noble friend has called attention. I had

heard of it from a private source, and I had given directions to have the fullest possible inquiries made. I have reason to believe that an official representation upon the subject will reach the War Office before long, and I promise my noble friend it shall be thoroughly investigated. It is obvious that if what he says is correct, bad arrangements of this kind, producing as they do great suffering and inconvenience to the men, cannot but have an injurious effect upon recruiting. The responsibility for the arrangements for the conveyance of these Militia battalions rests with the Quartermaster-General's Department of the War Office, but those arrangements, of course, have to be carried out by the railway companies, and until I have received the official report it is impossible for me to say whether the blame rests with the War Office for unwisely planning the arrangements, or whether it is the railway authorities who deserve censure for having failed to carry out the programme arranged between them and the War Office. The matter shall be thoroughly investigated, and if the House is not sitting when I get the report I will undertake to communicate the substance of it to my noble friend.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes past Six of the clock, to Monday next, a quarter past Four of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 4th August 1899.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

DERWENT VALLEY WATER BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to; Amendments made; and a consequential Amendment made to the Bill.

NORTH-WEST LONDON RAILWAY BILL.

BROMPTON AND PICCADILLY CIRCUS RAILWAY BILL.

LEEDS CORPORATION BILL.

CHARING CROSS, EUSTON, AND HAMPSTEAD RAILWAY BILL.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE TRAMWAYS AND IMPROVEMENT BILL.

LONDON IMPROVEMENTS BILL.

HARROW AND UXBRIDGE RAILWAY BILL.

UXBRIDGE AND RICKMANSWORTH RAILWAY BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

PORTSMOUTH CORPORATION BILL. [Lords].

As amended considered.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Dr. Farquharson.*)

Bill read the third time accordingly, and passed, with Amendments.

STANDING ORDERS.

***THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES** (Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, Cumberland, Penrith): I have to move a series of Amendments to the Standing Orders of the House, but I hope it will not be expected that I shall make a statement on each, or that a Division shall be taken. I may explain that a great majority of the Amendments are merely drafting Amendments, with the purpose of bringing the Standing Orders of the House of Commons into accordance with those of the House of Lords. A certain number relating to Ireland are made necessary by the Local Government (Ireland) Act, the county council having to be substituted for the grand jury. Other Amendments extend the time for the completion of tramways, it having been found in practice that three years is not long enough for the completion of tramways, when the purchase of land is included in the Bill, especially now that electric traction is so generally adopted. We propose to cut out of the Standing Orders the word "subway" as a term of art. It was originally intended to cover such works as the underground railway, but it has never been used in that sense. The only matter which can in any sense be regarded as an Amendment of substance are two clauses relating to the provision of dwellings for occupiers of the working-class who are displaced. The most important change in this respect is the introduction for the first time of a definition of the word

"house." It was thought that now, when so many of the working-classes are housed in big buildings accommodating 400 or 500 people, the term "house" should not cover the whole of such a building. It is proposed, therefore, to define "house" as "a tenement separately occupied by any person or persons." This will, for the present, only apply to London. Words are to be inserted which will enable the Committee to provide against the Standing Orders being evaded in this matter. Cases have recently occurred in which promoters have got round the Standing Orders by not taking all the houses required in one Bill, but spreading their net over several sessions, so that in no session are twenty houses taken. The Amendments on the Paper would enable the Committee to take into consideration the whole scheme, and whether under it more than twenty houses in London or ten houses in other towns are to be taken. There is one Amendment on the Paper which I do not propose to move. It is the 4th on page 16, and it embodies a proposal to make some fresh arrangement with regard to the delivery of notices. But the Post Office have not seen their way to fall in with our proposal, and therefore I do not press it. I hope, however, next session, to be able to simplify matters.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): Has the right hon. Gentleman, with reference to the number of houses in regard to which the provisions as to rehousing the displaced occupiers of the dwellings will be enforced, borne in mind that for every house taken the amount of population disturbed will be much greater in London than elsewhere?

*MR. J. W. LOWTHER: That was so; but for some time the provision in the Standing Orders has referred to twenty houses in London, and ten houses elsewhere, and it has not been thought well to make a change in that respect at present.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): Although there is no Standing Order to that effect, may we take it there is an understanding that in future Irish Bills will be initiated in the House of Commons?

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*MR. J. W. LOWTHER: That matter is not within the province of the Standing Orders. At the beginning of the session the Chairmen of the two Houses meet and arrange what Bills shall be initiated in each House.

MR. GALLOWAY (Manchester, S.W.): Cannot the right hon. Gentleman, before next session, consider the desirability of increasing the number of dwellings to be replaced in the larger towns from ten to fifteen?

*MR. J. W. LOWTHER: I shall be glad to consider representations from the larger towns as to the advisability of varying the provision in regard to the number of houses taken. My only anxiety has been not to proceed too quickly. This is a matter on which we should have to consult the Local Government Board.

Standing Order 1 was read and amended:—

In line 39, in the second column, by leaving out the words after the word "subway" to the word "rails," in line 43.

Part II., Heading, in line 1, by leaving out the words "(3 to 68 inclusive)."

In line 8, by leaving out the words from the word "tenant" to the end of line 11, and inserting the words "the term 'London,' except where the City of London is expressly mentioned, means the administrative County of London."

In line 12, by leaving out the word "district," and inserting the words "sanitary authority."

In lines 12 and 13, by leaving out the words "the administrative county of."

In line 13, by leaving out the words from the word "any" to the end of line 15, and inserting the words "sanitary authority for the purposes of The Public Health (London) Act, 1891."

In line 15, by adding at the end thereof the words "the term 'mechanical power' includes steam, electrical, and every other motive power not being animal power."

Other expressions defined in The Interpretation Act, 1889, have the same meanings in these Orders as if these Orders were an Act of Parliament passed after the commencement of that Act."

Standing Order 6 was read and amended, in line 9, by leaving out the words from the word "and" to the word "tramway," in line 11, inclusive, and inserting the words "the motive power to be employed."

Standing Order 6A was read and repealed.

Standing Order 6B was read and amended, in line 3, by leaving out all the words after the word "employed."

Standing Order 10 was read and amended:—

In line 3, by leaving out the words "or subway."

In line 11, after the word "tramway," by inserting the word "or."

In line 48, by leaving out the words "or subway."

Standing Order 20 was read and amended:—

In line 4, by leaving out the words "post in."

In line 5, by leaving out from the word "letter," to the word "appointed," inclusive, in line 6.

Standing Order 22 was read and amended:—

In line 9 by leaving out from the word "authorities," to the words "Schedule A," in line 10, inclusive, and inserting the words "for the purposes."

In line 11, by leaving out the words from the word "of," to the second word "vestry," in line 15, inclusive, and inserting the words "a rural district in England the rural district council shall be deemed to be the local authority."

In line 16, by inserting after the word "be," the words "deemed to be," and leaving out the words "the Grand Jury of"; and leaving out the words after the word "county," to the word "1860," in line 23, inclusive, and inserting the words "and district councils."

Standing Order 24 was read and amended in line 19, by leaving out the words from the word "mile," to the word "(mile)," in line 22, inclusive.

Standing Order 25 was read and amended in line 3, by leaving out the word "said" and the words "or published."

Standing Order 25A was read and amended:

In lines 1 and 2, by leaving out the words "a published," and inserting the words "an ordinance."

In line 3, by leaving out the words after the word "mile," to the word "obtainable," in line 4, inclusive.

Standing Order 26 was read and amended in lines 11 and 12, by leaving out the words "or published."

Standing Order 26A was read and amended in lines 10 and 11, by leaving out the words "or published."

Standing Order 27 was read and amended:—

In line 1, by leaving out the word "subway."

In line 41, by leaving out the word "said" and the words "or published."

Standing Order 28 was read and amended:—

In line 1, by leaving out the words from the word "situate," to the word "of," in line 2, inclusive, and inserting the word "in."

In line 3, by leaving out the words "within the said county," and inserting the words "in London."

In lines 4 and 5, by leaving out the words "lands within the said county," and inserting the word "London."

Standing Order 29 was read and amended:—

In line 11, by leaving out the words "the administrative county of."

In lines 12 and 13, by leaving out the words "Vestry or District

Board, as the case may be," and inserting the words "sanitary authority."

In line 23, by leaving out from the word "council," to the word "included," in line 31, both inclusive, and inserting the words—

(g) any burgh in Scotland, with the town clerk or clerk to the burgh commissioners, as the case may be ;

(h) any parish in Scotland, outside a burgh, with the clerk of the parish council.

In line 32, by leaving out the words "sanitary authority," and inserting the words "or rural district."

In line 33, by leaving out the words "sanitary authority," and inserting the words "district council."

Standing Order 33 was read and amended :—

In line 1, by inserting after the word "copy," the words "shall be deposited."

In line 2, by leaving out the words "shall be deposited."

In line 3, by leaving out the words "printed copy," and inserting the words "of every local Bill relating to Scotland or Ireland at the Office of the Secretary for Scotland or the Irish Office, as the case may be."

In line 4, by leaving out the word "subways."

In line 6, by leaving out the words "shall be deposited."

In lines 6 and 7, by leaving out the words "a printed copy."

In line 8, by leaving out the words "shall be deposited."

In line 10, by leaving out the words "a printed copy."

In line 12, by leaving out the words "shall be deposited."

In line 13, by leaving out the words "a printed copy."

In lines 14 and 15, by leaving out the words "and of every Bill."

In line 18, by inserting after the word "Land" the words "or in which provisions are contained re-

lating to the labouring class in London ; or promoted by municipal and other local authorities, by which it is proposed to create powers relating to police or sanitary regulations which deviate from, or are in extension of, or repugnant to, the General Law."

In line 19, by leaving out the words "a printed copy."

In line 21, by leaving out the words from the word "Colonies," to the word "copy," inclusive, in line 23.

In line 25, by leaving out the words "or to which Standing Order 38 applies."

In line 26, by leaving out the words "a printed copy."

In line 31, by leaving out the words "a printed copy."

In line 34, by leaving out the words "a printed copy."

In line 37, by leaving out the words "a printed copy."

In line 39, by leaving out the words "a printed copy."

At the end thereof, by adding the words—

Of every local Bill which relates to the drainage of land in England or Wales, or which relates to the improvement of land in England, Wales, or Scotland, or to the erection, improvement, repair, maintenance, or regulation of any market or market place at which cattle are exposed for sale, or to any matter within the jurisdiction of the Board of Agriculture, or which proposes to alter the boundary of any county, urban or rural district, parish, or any other administrative area in the United Kingdom, or whereby power is sought to take any common or commonable land, at the Office of the Board of Agriculture.

Standing Orders 33A and 33B were read, and repealed.

Standing Order 34 was read and amended, in line 2, by leaving out the word "whereby," and inserting the words "which proposes to authorise," and in

line 2, by leaving out the words from the word "work" to the second word "of," in line 3, inclusive, and inserting the word "in."

Standing Order 37 was read and amended in line 2, by leaving out the word "Subway."

Standing Order 38 was read and repealed.

Standing Order 45A was read and repealed.

Standing Order 57 was read and amended:—

In line 1, by inserting, after the first word "Bill," the word "or," and by leaving out the words "or Subway Bill."

In line 3, by inserting, after the first word "Company," the word "or," and by leaving out the words "or Subway Company."

In line 4, by inserting, after the word "Railway," the word "or."

In line 5, by leaving out the words "or subway."

In line 12, by inserting, after the first word "Bills," the word "and," and by leaving out the words "and Subway Bills."

Standing Orders 60 and 60A were read and repealed.

Standing Order 63 was read and amended, in line 3, by inserting after the word "or" the word "otherwise," and by leaving out the words from the word "constituted" to the word "Trustees," in line 6, inclusive.

Standing Order 65 was read and amended, in line 4, by inserting after the second word "or" the word "otherwise," and by leaving out the words from the word "constituted" to the word "Trustees," in line 8, inclusive.

Standing Order 67 was read and amended:—

In line 3, by leaving out the words "Grand Jury Cess," and inserting the words "the poor rate."

In line 9, by leaving out the words "grand jury" and inserting the

words "county council," and by leaving out the words from the word "present" to the word "or," in line 10, inclusive.

In line 10, by leaving out the word "local."

In line 12, by leaving out the words "at large," and by leaving out the words from the word "more" to the word "Baronies" in line 13, inclusive, and inserting the words "urban or rural districts."

In line 14, by leaving out the words "presentment sessions," and inserting the words "county council."

In line 15, by leaving out the words "at large," and by leaving out the words "for such barony or baronies," and inserting the words "to the district council for such district," and by leaving out the words in lines 16 to 18, inclusive.

In line 19, by leaving out all the words after the second word "such," to the word "guardians," in line 21, inclusive, and inserting the words "county or district council."

In line 22, by leaving out all the words after the word "such," to the word "guardians," in line 23, inclusive, and inserting the word "council."

In line 26, by inserting after the word "published," the words "or circulating," and after the word "county," the words "or district," and by leaving out from the word "which," to the word "which," in line 27, inclusive.

In line 28, by leaving out the words from "charge," to the end of the paragraph.

In line 34, by leaving out the words from the second "the," to the word "respectively," in line 36, inclusive, and inserting the word "council."

In line 36, by leaving out the words "presentment or."

In line 37, by leaving out the words "each of the said bodies," and inserting the words "every council."

In line 39, by leaving out the word "foreman," and by leaving out the words "or other person."

In line 40, by leaving out the words "presentment was made, or such."

Standing Order 76 was read and amended, in line 4, by leaving out the words "to administer," and inserting the word "for," and by leaving out the words "in the Supreme Court of Judicature."

Standing Order 142 was read and amended, in line 5, by leaving out the words "to administer," and inserting the word "for," and by leaving out the words "in the Supreme Court of Judicature."

Standing Order 145 was read and amended, in line 2, by leaving out the words "public carriage," and inserting the word "main," and by leaving out the words from the word "or" to "1845," in line 3, inclusive.

Standing Order 153 was read and amended:—

In line 1, by leaving out the word "No, and inserting the word "A;" and by inserting after the word "shall" the word "not."

In line 3, by leaving out the word "and," and inserting the word "or."

In line 4, by leaving out the words "it shall not be in the power of the company."

In line 8, by leaving out the word "tramway."

In line 8, after the word "or," by inserting the word "tramway."

In line 9, by leaving out the word "subway."

Standing Order 155 was read and amended:—

In lines 2 and 3, by leaving out the words "steam or by any."

In line 4, by leaving out the words "including cable power."

Standing Order 158 was read and amended:—

In line 7 of Paragraph D, by inserting after the word "railway," the words "tramroad or tramway."

In line 8, by leaving out the words from the beginning thereof to the word "years," in line 9.

In line 9, by leaving out from the word "not" to the word "line," inclusive, in line 10.

In line 10, by leaving out from the first word, "years," to the word "year," in line 11.

Standing Order 170A was read and amended, in line 16, by leaving out from the words "period of," inclusive, to the end thereof, and inserting the words "Committee may, if they think fit, in the special circumstances of the case, substitute shorter periods for the periods mentioned in that section."

Standing Order 173 was read and amended, in line 2, by leaving out the words "municipal corporation, municipal commissioners," and inserting the words "urban district council."

Standing Order 183A was read and repealed.

New Standing Order, to follow Standing Order 37. (Deposit of statement relating to labouring class houses.)

Ordered, That where any Bill contains or revives or extends power to take compulsorily or by agreement any land in any local area as defined for the purposes of this Order, and such taking involves or may involve the taking in any local area in London of 20 or more houses, or in any other local area of 10 or more houses occupied either wholly or partially by persons of the labouring class, whether as tenants or lodgers, the promoters shall deposit in the Private Bill Office and at the office of the Central Authority on or before the 31st December a statement of the number, description, and situation of all such houses, and the number (so far as can be ascertained) of persons residing therein, and also a copy of so much of the plan (if any) as relates thereto.

This Order shall not apply where a statement in pursuance of this Order was deposited in respect of this Act, the powers of which are proposed to be revived or extended.

For the purposes of this Order—

The expression "local area" means—

(1) as respects London the City of London, and the district of any

sanitary authority within the meaning of The Public Health (London) Act, 1891 ;

(2) as respects England and Wales (outside London), any borough, or other urban district, and elsewhere, any parish ;

(3) as respects Scotland, any district within the meaning of The Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897 ; and

(4) as respects Ireland, any urban district ;

The expression "house" means any tenement separately occupied by any person or persons ;

The expression "labouring class" means mechanics, artisans, labourers, and others working for wages, hawkers, costermongers, persons not working for wages but working at some trade or handicraft without employing others except members of their own family, and persons, other than domestic servants, whose income does not exceed an average of thirty shillings a week, and the families of any of such persons who may be residing with them ;

The expression "Central Authority" means as regards London the Secretary of State for the Home Department, and as regards England and Wales (outside London) the Local Government Board, as regards Scotland the Secretary for Scotland, and as regards Ireland the Local Government Board for Ireland ;

The expression "Bill" includes a Bill confirming a Provisional Order.

New Standing Order, to follow Standing Order 59 (Deposit Bills brought from House of Lords) :—

Ordered, That a copy of every Local Bill brought from the House of Lords shall, not later than two days after the Bill is read a first time, be deposited at every Office at which it was deposited under Orders 33, 33A, and 38, or would be required to be deposited under those Orders, if it had been originally introduced as brought from the House of Lords.

New Standing Order, to follow Standing Order 183 (Provisions with respect to houses occupied by labouring class) :—

Ordered, That, in the case of every Bill which gives, revives, or extends power to take land compulsorily or by agreement, clauses shall be inserted—

(1) Providing that the promoters shall not in the exercise of such power purchase or acquire in any local area in London twenty or more houses, or, in any other local area, ten or more houses, occupied either wholly or partially by persons belonging to the labouring class, as tenants or lodgers, unless and until

(a) They shall have obtained the approval of the central authority to a scheme for providing new dwellings for the persons residing in such houses, or for such number or proportion of such persons as the central authority shall, after enquiry, deem necessary, having regard to the number of persons residing in the houses liable to be taken and working within one mile therefrom, and to the amount of vacant suitable accommodation in the immediate neighbourhood of the houses liable to be taken, or to the place of employment of such persons, and all the other circumstances of the case ; and

(b) They shall have given security to the satisfaction of the central authority for the carrying out of the scheme.

(2) Imposing adequate penalties on the promoters in the event of houses being acquired or appropriated for the purposes of the Bill in contravention of the foregoing provisions ;

(3) Providing that the expenses or any part of the expenses incurred by the central authority under this Order shall be defrayed by the promoters of the Bill, or out of moneys to be raised under the Bill ; and

(4) Conferring on the promoters and on the central authority respectively any powers that may

be necessary to enable full effect to be given to the said scheme.

The Committee may provide that any house purchased or acquired by the promoters in any local area in London for or in connection with any of the purposes of the Bill, whether purchased or acquired in the exercise of the powers of the Bill or otherwise, and whether before or after the passing of the Bill, shall be deemed, for the purposes of the clauses so to be inserted, to have been purchased or acquired in exercise of the powers of the Bill.

Expressions defined in Order 38 have the same meanings in this Order.

Ordered, That the said Standing Orders be Standing Orders of this House.
—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION (LONDON) BILL [Lords].

Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

PETITIONS.

PETROLEUM BILL.

Petition from West Ham, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

POOR LAW AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1845.

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Barrie, Middlebie, and Troqueer; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

RAILWAYS (GENERAL REPORT).

Copy presented,—of General Report to the Board of Trade on the Capital, Traffic and Expenditure of the Railway Companies of the United Kingdom for the year 1898 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT (UNITED KINGDOM).

Copy presented,—of Statistical Abstract for the United Kingdom in each of the last fifteen years from 1884 to 1898, Forty-sixth Number [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT (COLONIES).

Copy presented,—of Statistical Abstract for the Colonial and other Possessions of the United Kingdom in each of the last fifteen years from 1884 to 1898, Thirty-sixth Number [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

COMPANIES (WINDING-UP).

Return presented,—relative thereto [ordered 13th June; *Mr. Charles M^r Arthur*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 328.)

BREWERS' CASKS.

Return presented,—relative thereto [ordered 27th July; *Mr. Broadhurst*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 329.)

BANKRUPTCY.

Copy presented,—of Sixteenth General Annual Report by the Board of Trade under the Bankruptcy Act, 1883 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 330.)

COMPANIES (WINDING-UP).

Copy presented,—of Eighth General Annual Report by the Board of Trade [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 331.)

RAILWAY SERVANTS (HOURS OF LABOUR).

Copy presented,—of Report by the Board of Trade of their Proceedings under the Railway Regulation Act, 1893, during the year ended 27th July, 1899 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 332.)

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Copy presented,—of Report by the Board of Trade of their Proceedings and Business under the Weights and Measures Acts [by Act]; to lie upon the Table and to be printed. (No. 333.)

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1887.

Copy presented,—of Treasury Minute, dated 29th July, 1899, granting to Mr. G. F. Long, formerly a second division clerk in the Office of Public Works, Dublin, a retired allowance under the Act [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (PROCEEDINGS).

Copy presented,—of Return of Proceedings of the Commission during the months of March, April, and May, 1899 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TUNIS (No. 1, 1899).

Copy presented,—of Return of Exports from Great Britain and France to Tunis during the years 1880, 1885, 1890, 1895, and 1897 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EGYPT (No. 6, 1899).

Copy presented,—of Papers relating to the Contract for the Atbara Bridge [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented,—of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2326 to 2328 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).

Copy presented,—of Minute of the Committee of Council on Education, dated 4th August, 1899, modifying Articles 15 and 15* of the Evening Continuation Schools Code, 1899 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Copy presented,—of Report of the Committee of Council on Education (England and Wales), with Appendix, 1898-9 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Copy presented,—of Statement showing (1) Schools in receipt of Parliamentary Grants; (2) Grants paid to School Boards under Section 97, Elementary Education Act, 1870; and (3) School Board Accounts and List of Loans for the year 1898-9 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP (PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS FROM MACHINERY IN THE MANUFACTURE OF COTTON).

Copy presented of Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department by W. A. Beaumont, Esquire, and H. S. Richmond, Esquire, two of Her Majesty's Superintending Inspectors of Factories,

on the Prevention of Accidents from Machinery in the Manufacture of Cotton [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

DEATHS FROM STARVATION OR ACCELERATED BY PRIVATION (LONDON).

Return presented relative thereto [Address, 15th February, Mr. Talbot]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 334.)

INTOXICATING LIQUORS (LICENCES REFUSED).

Return presented relative thereto [Address, 18th April, Mr. Henry J. Wilson]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 335.)

EXPENDITURE ON CAPITAL ACCOUNT RECENTLY AUTHORISED BY PARLIAMENT.

Return ordered, "showing the amounts of expenditure authorised since the 1st day of April, 1888, by Acts of Parliament and by the Bills of the present session, to be incurred on various public services and to be charged to Capital Account; the several heads of such expenditure; the amounts of expenditure incurred in each year to the 31st day of March, 1899, under each head; the amounts borrowed to meet the requirements of spending Departments to that date; the amounts of the loans repaid under each head by the same date; and the amounts then outstanding."—(*Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman.*)

QUESTIONS.

NAVAL STORES.

COMMANDER YOUNG (Berkshire, Wokingham): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the delivery of stores under contract, apart from those required for ship construction, during the financial year 1898-99, was satisfactory.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. MACARTNEY, Antrim, S.): Deliveries have been generally satisfactory. Certain firms, however, who were in arrear in the year 1897-8 and were specially warned on that account, have again failed to make satisfactory deliveries, and have consequently been removed from the list of contractors.

NAVAL COURTS-MARTIAL.

MR. H. D. GREENE (Shrewsbury): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty whether the Criminal Evidence Act, 1898, has been applied to Courts-Martial under the Naval Discipline Act.

MR. MACARTNEY: The answer is in the negative.

ARMY CHAPLAINS.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he can state if it is intended to take from Army chaplains the benefit of the Royal Warrant under which they served from 1894 to 1898.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): Until 1894 the rule was that chaplains should retire at sixty unless specially retained till a later age. In 1894 the rule was altered so that sixty-five became the compulsory age, power being taken to place any chaplain on retirement at or after the age of sixty. Last year it was considered desirable for the good of the Service, and on the advice of the Chaplain-General, to revert to sixty as the age for compulsory retirement subject to retention in special cases. Three years' notice was given to chaplains who would be affected within that time.

MILITARY HONOURS AT VOLUNTEER FUNERALS.

CAPTAIN NORTON: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether he can now state what decision, if any, has been arrived at as regards permitting military honours at Volunteer funerals.

*MR. WYNDHAM: It has been decided to permit military honours at Volunteer funerals. A paragraph defining the conditions of this permission will be published in the next edition of the Volunteer Regulations.

YEOMANRY RIFLE RANGES.

MR. H. D. GREENE: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War whether annual musketry drills are enforced upon the Yeomanry without provision by the Government of ranges or the cost of transport to ranges; whether, as in the case of Shrewsbury, the squadron officers have themselves to incur all the

expenses in connection with the use of the ranges fired on, and also the cost of transport of the men to and fro; and whether this can be remedied or removed by the provision of suitable ranges or otherwise.

*MR. WYNDHAM: Yeomanry corps are expected to provide for the hire of ranges out of the contingent allowance of £3 a man given for efficiency in drills and musketry. Further, a sum of 3s. 6d. is allowed for each man who makes himself efficient, to meet expenses in attending at the range. I am informed that the Shropshire Yeomanry are sending a statement of their case to the War Office. If so, it will be considered when it is received.

PENSIONS FOR ORDNANCE FACTORY EMPLOYEES.

LORD HUGH CECIL (Greenwich): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether the War Office would give consideration to further suggestions from those in employment in ordnance factories, &c., in regard to pensions; and, whether the War Office would now be prepared to grant a scheme on the lines submitted to the workmen in 1889, and then rejected by them.

*THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Mr. J. POWELL-WILLIAMS, Birmingham): The Secretary of State would not decline to give consideration to any further suggestions; but, as regards the workmen, their rejection of the scheme submitted to them in 1889 was so decisive that he is not prepared to re-open the matter as far as they are concerned.

INDIA — POLICE FORCE IN NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

MR. HAZELL (Leicester): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that during the year 1897 four charges of torture were preferred against the police force of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, all of which ended in convictions; and that it was officially reported that during the same year the conduct of the police force in the Province of Coorg was unsatisfactory; and whether, owing to the low rates of pay offered, it is difficult to get suitable recruits to join these forces; and, if so, whether the Government of

India is taking any steps to improve the position of these men and so attract a better class in order to avoid a recurrence of the scandals referred to.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): I am aware that in 1897 four cases of police torture ended in conviction in the police of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. In two of these cases the torture appears to have been inflicted under the orders of a superior and well-paid officer. As regards Coorg, which is a very small district, I find that for 1897 the Chief Commissioner in his review mentions "a decided improvement" as having taken place in police work, and also that he is preparing a scheme to remedy what he considers the disadvantage of insufficient pay. That cases of misconduct by the police should occur is a matter for very great regret; but there is reason to hope that a gradual improvement in this respect is taking place. The subject of improving the position and quality of the police generally has constantly occupied the attention of the Government of India, and large sums of money have been devoted during recent years to this purpose.

SULTAN MUHAMMAD.

SIR ANDREW SCOBLE (Hackney, Central): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that Sultan Muhammad, described as an Afghan General, and a near relative of the Amir of Afghanistan, resident in England, has been recognised as the official representative of the Ameer; and whether there is any truth in the statement?

LORD G. HAMILTON: There is no representative or relative of his Highness the Ameer in this country. The gentleman referred to is a British subject, who was once in the Ameer's service, but is not known to have held any office in the Ameer's army.

VACCINATION STATISTICS.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board, if he can state the amount of vaccination which has been performed during the first six months of this year under the provisions of the Vaccination Act of last year, as compared with the amount of vaccination

performed during the first six months of last year.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. CHAPLIN, Lincolnshire, Sleaford): The Returns which I have obtained show that the total number of certificates of successful primary vaccination received by the vaccination officers during the first six months of the present year was 353,992, as against 277,821 in the first six months of 1898. It thus appears that notwithstanding the difficulties of securing a simultaneous alteration of method throughout the country, involving amongst other things a system of domiciliary instead of stational vaccination, there has been an increase of 76,000 primary vaccinations or of more than 27 per cent. in the first six months of the present year as compared with the corresponding period of 1898.

LONDON ROAD-CAR COMPANY AND THE POLICE REGULATIONS.

MR. HAZELL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the action of the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis in relation to the London Road-Car Company; whether he is aware that the Commissioner has served notices upon the company that several metropolitan stage carriages are unfit for public use, and are therefore not to be used, although in perfect condition, merely because they have a packet of handbills suspended inside them; whether he is aware that these handbills simply indicate an alteration in the route, and are necessary announcements to the public which the company are not permitted to put on the outside of their carriages; and, whether he will cause the prohibition to be revoked.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): The answer to the second paragraph is in the affirmative. The Secretary of State's Order forbids any matter to appear inside or outside the carriage by way of advertisement except with the approval of the Commissioner. In the present case the approval of the Commissioner had not been asked for or obtained. The Bills in question did not relate to the route of the carriages in which they were exhibited.

and were, I understand, advertisements within the meaning of the Order. They have now been withdrawn, and the technical objection to the fitness of the carriages has consequently been removed.

FIND OF ROMAN COINS AT EASTBOURNE.

ADMIRAL FIELD (Sussex, Eastbourne): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will cause inquiry to be made of the Chief Constable at Eastbourne as to why certain Roman copper coins (over 2,000 in number) recently found on land near Beachy Head by a farm labourer named Jones, and not claimed by the authorities as treasure trove, have not been restored to him as the finder, although applied for repeatedly by him, or by persons on his behalf; whether it is alleged that the coins are of no intrinsic value; and, if so, will he direct that the same be handed to the man Jones, who is very poor, with a large family, and is anxious to sell them to visitors coming to Eastbourne; and will he state under what Statute the Chief Constable claims to retain them in his custody, and to what other person, if any, it is proposed to deliver them, and will he prohibit such delivery; or, if Jones be not the owner in law, will the Home Secretary indicate the amount he should receive as the finder under circumstances by way of reward.

***SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY**: The Chief Constable of the Eastbourne Borough Police reports that, having received information as to the finding of these coins by Jones, he sent an officer to obtain possession of the coins, pending inquiries as to their ownership by the Crown as treasure trove. Having ascertained that the Treasury did not claim the coins, he communicated with the agent of the Duke of Devonshire, on whose land the coins were found, and that gentleman claimed them and rewarded the finder. The Chief Constable also reports that neither Jones nor any other person has repeatedly applied to him for the coins, and that the finder is aware of the manner in which they have been disposed of. The matter is not one in which I could interfere.

ADMIRAL FIELD: Well, they might return to the man the neckerchief in which he wrapped the coins.

PAY TO INJURED METROPOLITAN POLICEMEN.

CAPTAIN NORTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can state if Metropolitan police constables are entitled to full pay whilst suffering from severe injuries received in the execution of their duty; and if so, why Police Constable York, of the Peckham division, who had his left cheek-bone fractured by a kick from a violent prisoner in March last, is now on ordinary sick pay though still unable to resume duty.

***SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY**: The regulations provide for a deduction of 1s. per diem from the pay of police while on the sick-list, but this deduction is not usually made when an officer is suffering from the results of injuries received in the execution of his duty. Police Constable York was on the sick-list for ninety-seven days in consequence of the injuries he received, and during that time no deductions were made from his pay. He resumed duty on the 12th June last, but again went sick on the 19th June. In the opinion of the chief surgeon, who is the responsible medical officer, there were no circumstances connected with this renewed period of sick leave to justify its being treated in an exceptional manner so far as the usual deductions are concerned, and he is of opinion that the police constable has practically recovered from his injuries.

ACCOMMODATION FOR CRIMINAL LUNATICS.

MR. ARTHUR O'CONNOR (Donegal, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he has yet had an opportunity of considering the representations of the Lunacy Commissioners with regard to the increasing numbers of criminal lunatics in county and borough asylums, and to the hardship which the practice inflicts upon the ordinary patients, and the indiscipline and danger which it involves; whether Broadmoor is fully occupied; and whether further accommodation could be furnished so as to enable criminal lunatics to be treated elsewhere than in ordinary asylums.

***SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY**: The question of providing additional accommoda-

tion for criminal lunatics is engaging my serious attention, and inquiries are now in progress with a view to obtaining a site for the building of a new criminal lunatic asylum. I propose, in the course of the autumn, to make the necessary application to the Treasury. The male accommodation at Broadmoor is fully occupied, but there are still vacancies for females at that establishment. It is intended that accommodation in the new asylum shall be provided both for male convicts becoming insane as well as the other more serious cases of criminal lunatics, but, of course, it will in no case be possible to relieve altogether county and borough asylums from their statutory obligation to receive criminal lunatics.

WELSH PRISONERS AND PRISON RULES.

MR. MOSS (Denbighshire, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that in some of Her Majesty's prisons in the Principality of Wales the notices which are expected to be read by the prisoners are in English only, that in some cases the prisoners are monoglot Welshmen, and in other cases illiterate Englishmen; and whether, under these circumstances, he will take the necessary steps for having the notices printed in future both in English and Welsh, and that in every case they shall be explained to the prisoners.

SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: The old notices were printed in Welsh and issued thus to prisons in Wales. As soon as the new notices, rendered necessary by the Act of 1898 and the new rules made by me, had been printed in English, they were sent for translation into Welsh. The final revision of the proofs by the translator has just been received, and the notices are going to press to-day. The notices are read to all prisoners on reception.

SUNDAY TRADING AT SHEERNESS.

MR. BARNES (Kent, Faversham): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the reports of recent proceedings in the Sheerness Police Court, with the written authority of the Chief Constable of Kent, against small shopkeepers under the Sunday Observance Act (29 Car. 2, c. 7); whether he is aware

that the defendants were convicted and fined sums varying from 6d. to 5s. for selling cakes, ice creams, tobacco, lemonade, fruit, and milk on Sunday; whether his attention has been called to the fact that the police magistrate characterised the proceedings as most imprudent and absurd, and expressed the opinion that the Home Secretary might very properly remit most of the penalties, which he was bound by law to inflict; and whether he would give the matter his careful consideration, with a view to the remission of these penalties.

SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY: I have obtained a report on this case, the facts of which are substantially as stated in the question. The Sunday Observance Act of 1871 provides that no prosecution shall be instituted without the consent in writing of the chief officer of police of the district or of the magistrates. The Chief Constable of Kent has chosen to exercise the discretion vested in him by the Statute by consenting to the prosecutions. It would not in my opinion be a proper exercise of the prerogative to use it for the remission of penalties which are allowed by the Statute and where no special circumstances justifying that course are brought forward.

VALUE OF PUBLICANS' LICENCES.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he is aware that both the Reports of the Licensing Commission agree in attributing an enormous monopoly value to publicans' licences under the present scale of duties; and whether he will now undertake that an inquiry shall be made during the recess with a view to determine as nearly as possible the relation between the existing duties and the actual annual value of the licences.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EX-CHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS-BEACH, Bristol, W.): I have not had time as yet to study the Report referred to; but, assuming the statement of the hon. Member to be accurate, I will consider his suggestion. I must remind him, however, that the matter is one affecting local, rather than Imperial, taxation.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I shall call attention to this matter on the

Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill.

ALIEN IMMIGRATION.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if his attention has been called to the immigration during the current year of upwards of 35,000 aliens at eastern ports, mainly for settlement in this country, a large increase of those coming in during the same period in 1898; and having in view the competition in the labour market when the present period of industrial prosperity passes away, if Her Majesty's Government will bear in mind the pledges they are under to introduce controlling legislation upon the question during the present Parliament.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): The number of alien immigrants not stated to be *en route* to places abroad that arrived at East Coast ports in the first seven months of 1899 was 29,670, or an increase of 5,000 over the corresponding period of 1898. Considerable increases are, however, shown in the emigration of foreigners from this country to places out of Europe, and also in the number of sailors included in the alien immigrants. The Government always bear in mind their pledges.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet): Will the right hon. Gentleman give the figures comparing them with the time when he issued his election address, and described the question as urgent, and the time when the Government promised legislation?

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): Will the right hon. Gentleman consult President Kruger before he introduces any Bill?

MR. RITCHIE: I have not the figures now, but I shall be glad to give them.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION GRANTS.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he will arrange that in future the Annual Report of the Board of Agriculture, as to the distribution of the grants for agricultural education, will be issued before the close of the Parliamentary session; whether

his attention has been drawn to the very satisfactory results achieved through the distribution of the grants in Wales by the two collegiate centres at Bangor and Aberystwith; and whether, in view of the great interest manifested in Wales in this branch of agricultural education and the pressing necessity for an extension of such educational facilities, he will consider whether the Welsh grants can in future be increased.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. LONG, Liverpool, West Derby): Every effort will be made to expedite the issue of the Report to which the hon. Member refers; but I am afraid that it cannot always be published before the close of the Parliamentary session. The work of the collegiate centres at Bangor and Aberystwith is certainly of a very satisfactory character; but the same observation applies to the English centres, and I am afraid that increased grants in the one case would be followed by demands for a similar favour in the other, with a result which would be somewhat serious from a Treasury point of view. But I will, of course, carefully consider any representations I may receive on the subject.

NELSON CHARITY, WIGTON, CUMBERLAND.

MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield): I beg to ask the hon. Member for Thirsk, as representing the Charity Commissioners, whether representations have been made to the Charity Commissioners expressing the dissatisfaction which prevails in the localities interested with the mode in which the large sum of money bequeathed by Mr. Joseph Nelson, of Moor Row, near Wigton, Cumberland, for charitable purposes, has been appropriated; and whether they will institute an inquiry into the administration of such charities.

THE PARLIAMENTARY CHARITY COMMISSIONER (MR. GRANT LAWSON, Yorkshire, N. R., Thirsk): (1) The only representation made to the Commissioners in the sense stated is one in general terms by an unsuccessful candidate for the headmastership of the Nelson Grammar School endowed out of the charity, for which a scheme has been made under the direction of the Chancery Division. (2) A letter

of the Commissioners inviting him to state the grounds of his complaint has not as yet received any answer, and without this information the Commissioners are unable to say whether an inquiry is wanted.

COAST TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATIONS.

SIR CAMERON GULL (Devonshire, Barnstaple): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether, in cases where local lifeboat committees determine upon surprise practices, either by day or night, they are entitled to use or to request the Coastguard to use the coast telephonic communications for purposes connected with such practices.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): The Post Office is at all times desirous of facilitating as far as possible the work of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. No communication has, however, been received from that institution on the subject of the hon. Member's question, and the need for making use of the coast telephonic lines for the purpose of surprise practices is not apparent. The possibility of making suitable arrangements will readily be considered in any case of the kind in which application is made to the Department.

POSTMEN'S HOURS OF DUTY.

MR. STEADMAN (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, if he is aware that in many offices, notably in Yorkshire, the daily duties of postmen are so arranged that the men are unable to benefit by the recommendation of the Tweedmouth Committee, that they should be enabled to have nine clear hours at home; and whether he will take steps to remedy the grievance complained of.

MR. HANBURY: Every endeavour is being made to carry out the recommendations of the Tweedmouth Committee as regards postmen being enabled to have nine clear hours' rest at home. The Postmaster-General is not aware that there are many offices in Yorkshire or elsewhere where this arrangement has not been carried out; but enquiry will be made in the matter, if the hon. Member

will be good enough to specify the offices to which he refers.

COLONEL DALBIAC (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether the sorters in the letter branch of the Paddington district office are to have imposed upon them a form of split duties extending from 12.15 a.m. to 5.15 a.m., and from 7.15 p.m. to 9.15 p.m.; whether he is aware that such hours will preclude the possibility of a proper night's rest, and whether the fact has been considered that this practically compels men to spend the time from 9.15 p.m. to 12.15 a.m. in the streets or in the nearest public-house, and that rule 14 forbids any officer off duty remaining in post office buildings; and whether, in view of the recommendations of the Tweedmouth Committee, he can see his way to prevent such arrangements coming into force.

MR. HANBURY: It will be necessary for five sorters in the Paddington District Office to attend at about the times stated by the hon. Member in order to carry on the work, and no other arrangement of the duties is practicable without undue expense or waste of force. The men can remain in the building during the interval mentioned if they wish to do so, there being no rule against this. Rule 14, to which reference is made, deals with an entirely different subject, but Rule 44, which is probably intended, prohibits sleeping on the premises without permission. The recommendation of the Tweedmouth Committee that, wherever it is necessary for split duties to be performed, the officer should have nine clear unbroken hours at his own home during each twenty-four hours will be complied with in this case, inasmuch as the five sorters in question will be off duty from 5.15 a.m. to about 7.15 p.m.

POSTMEN'S PETITIONS.

MR. STEADMAN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, for what reason G. S. Johnston, an unappointed postman of Edinburgh, was directed by Inspector Ross to look out for another situation, after being asked why he had signed the petition to the Postmaster-General requesting official recognition of the federation; and is he aware that a

practice prevails at Edinburgh, especially on the part of this inspector, of questioning unappointed men as to their reasons for signing petitions.

MR. HANBURY: Johnston was unable to pass the medical examination for appointment to the establishment in 1898, and he was informed that he would be allowed to remain on duty for a month to give him an opportunity to look for other employment. Afterwards, at Johnston's earnest request, this temporary employment was continued till the 24th of April last. The inspector says that he is not in the habit of questioning unappointed men as to their reasons for signing petitions, and in Johnston's case he merely told the young man that he did not think he should sign the petition in question as he was not on the establishment.

ABBREVIATED TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, England): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether he is aware of the existence of discontent owing to the stricter enforcement by the Post Office of full addresses for telegraph messages, even where there has been hitherto no doubt or ignorance as to the person named in the incomplete address; and whether the Postmaster-General can see his way either to a modification of the rule which insists on full addresses or to the reduction of the fee for registered addresses, which now stands at a guinea.

MR. HANBURY: The Postmaster-General is aware of the existence, here and there, of discontent, owing to the requirement by the Post Office of a sufficient address for telegrams, but he has no reason to think that, except perhaps in a few isolated cases, this has been done where there has been an address which enabled the Department to effect delivery without difficulty or delay and without reference to directories. Otherwise telegrams cannot be transmitted and delivered with due expedition, and there is risk of those bearing sufficient addresses also being delayed through the time of the officers of the Department being taken up in making inquiries. The Post Office does not recommend the registration of an abbreviated address. It would be much

the best if in all cases a full address were used. The Postmaster-General does not, however, regard the present fee as excessive, and he cannot see his way to reduce it.

CORK POST OFFICE STAFF.

MR. MAURICE HEALY (Cork): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether it is intended to appoint a member of the Cork telegraph staff to the new position of assistant superintendent, included in the revision of the Cork indoor force, which was recently sanctioned by the Treasury; and why the vacancy is not to be filled from the postal side, considering that the major portion of the duties applicable to the new appointment are postal, and that the entire duties, postal and telegraph, have been hitherto performed by the postal staff.

MR. HANBURY: No decision has yet been come to.

ART BRANCH, SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM.

MR. MAURICE HEALY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether his attention has been called to the action of the Civil Service Commissioners in connection with the recent appointment of Mr. Andrews to the position of assistant in the South Kensington Museum (Art Branch), and their refusal to appoint Mr. Donovan, a duly qualified candidate, to that position; whether he is aware that an examination was held to fill two vacancies in June, 1898; that at this examination three candidates qualified; and that another vacancy occurred shortly after the examination, to which the third qualified candidate (Mr. Donovan) applied to be appointed; whether it has been hitherto the rule that an examination is held not merely with a view to existing vacancies, but also with a view to vacancies arising within six months of the examination; and why Mr. Donovan was not appointed to the vacancy according to that practice; whether Mr. Andrews was a candidate at the same examination, and also at a previous one, and was unsuccessful at both; and whether the Civil Service Commissioners subsequently gave Mr. Andrews a certificate without any examination, and appointed him to the position which they

refused to Mr. Donovan, though the latter had got the third place at the examination in June, 1898.

MR. HANBURY: Open competitions for situations in the Civil Service have reference either to existing vacancies or to the number of vacancies estimated to occur within any period not exceeding six months after the commencement of the examination or to both. The open competition held in June, 1898, had reference, as was stated in the notice announcing it, to the number of assistantships vacant at the time, viz., two. The candidates who obtained the first two places were appointed and no other candidate had any claim to any appointment. In this competition Mr. Andrews and Mr. Donovan were both unsuccessful. Mr. Donovan was third and qualified, but his marks were considerably below those of the first two candidates. Accordingly when another vacancy occurred it was decided to offer it for competition, and notice was given that an examination would be held in December, 1898. Mr. Andrews entered and Mr. Donovan did not. As the only other candidate besides Mr. Andrews withdrew, and as he had qualified at two previous examinations, the vacant Assistantship was given to him. To have re-examined him under such circumstances would clearly have been superfluous.

SUPREME COURT CLERKS' RETIREMENT.

ADMIRAL FIELD: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, in view of the answer given by him on 9th April, 1897, in reply to a question by the hon. Member for the Norwood Division of Lambeth relative to the retirement of clerks in the Probate and other law offices, he can now state the nature of the regulations alluded to as then being about to be issued dealing with the grievances in question, and whether they were ever issued; whether he is aware that there are at this moment four clerks with over twenty years' service, six clerks with over fifteen years' service, and fifteen clerks with over ten years' service, all of whom are in the same class as when they entered the office, and at the maximum salary of their class, the average time in the third class being upwards of twenty

years; whether clerks remain in the office till they are over seventy years of age, and why the rules for their compulsory retirement at sixty-five, recommended by the Ridley Commission, are not complied with; whether the President of the Probate, Divorce, and Admiralty Court has brought the subject under the notice of the Treasury repeatedly, but without result; whether he is aware that clerks of twenty years' service are still serving on the small salary of £200, owing to the non-retirement of old men, and whether the existing arrangements can be abolished; and can he inform the House of the number of clerks who will reach sixty-five years and upwards by the end of the present financial year in the Probate and Admiralty Court who are not under the compulsory retirement rules.

MR. HANBURY: The clerks of the departments of the Supreme Court are not persons in the permanent Civil Service within the definition of the Superannuation Acts. The Order in Council of 15th August, 1890, does not therefore apply to them, and the Treasury is powerless to enforce retirement at the age usual in the Civil Service. This retirement could only be enforced by an order made by the authorities of the Supreme Court, and I understand that the Lord Chancellor is unable to obtain the assent of all the chiefs of the several Divisions of the Court. I am unable to answer the questions as to the ages of the clerks in the several Divisions of the Court. In fact, I understand that the ages of several are not known.

SOUTH TIPPERARY MAILS.

MR. ARTHUR MOORE (London-derry): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether his attention has been called to the fact that the mails have missed the connection at Limerick Junction on four days last week and three days this week, thereby disorganising the postal service over the greater part of South Tipperary and the important towns of Clonmel, Cahir, and Carrick-on-Suir; and what steps the Post Office intend to take in this matter.

MR. HANBURY: The mails from England on three occasions last week, and on three occasions this week, missed the

connection at Limerick Junction. In one case the delay was caused by the breakdown of the engine of the London and North-Western mail train. In the other cases it was due to the large amount of passenger traffic for Ireland, which rendered it necessary for the train to Holyhead to be run in two parts. The duplication of this train has been much more frequent since third-class passengers have been conveyed by it, and whenever it is duplicated the second part is always late in arriving at Holyhead. The railway company have been urged to further consider the matter and provide a remedy.

COLONEL VANDALEUR AND KILRUSH PIER.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the Department of Woods and Forests are considering the advisability of making over any portion of the foreshore or pier at Kilrush to Colonel Vandaleur; and, before taking any step to confer a title on the latter, will the views of the county and district councils be ascertained.

MR. HANBURY: The Department of Woods and Forests, I understand, are prepared to consider the advisability of making over the portion of the foreshore on which the pier stands, if Colonel Vandaleur obtains a satisfactory Provisional Order regulating the pier dues. Before any such Order is granted, the Board of Trade will, in ordinary course, hear objections from any of the parties interested. Notice must be given both in the *London Gazette* and in the local papers of the application for the Order, and I will see that the attention of the local authorities is specially called to its insertion.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Will the right hon. Gentleman undertake, on behalf of the Treasury, that nothing shall be done in this matter until Parliament has had some opportunity of considering it?

MR. HANBURY: I do not think the matter presses.

MAJOR JAMESON (Clare, W.): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that Colonel Vandaleur never paid anything for this pier, and—

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*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! This is a matter which cannot be argued by means of questions put across the floor of the House.

THE NEW FOREST.

MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU (Hampshire, New Forest): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he has received a Report from Mr. Stafford Howard, one of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, with reference to the old woods of the New Forest, accompanied by a Report of three old residents in the New Forest; and if he would issue the same with a short covering Report of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests as a Parliamentary Paper.

MR. HANBURY: The question dealt with in these Reports is still under consideration; and I cannot at present undertake to issue the Parliamentary Paper suggested.

AUXILIARY SERVICE AND PENSIONS IN THE POST OFFICE.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, if it has been the rule in the past for auxiliary service in London to be admitted for pension when paid at the rate of at least 10s. a week.

MR. HANBURY: No, Sir, not in the case of any person appointed after the Superannuation Act of 1859.

DOUBLE INCREMENTS IN THE POST OFFICE.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, in view of the recommendation of the inter-Departmental Committee on Post Office Establishments to the effect that those provincial officers, not below the age of twenty-four, who have proved themselves qualified and ready to serve on both the postal and telegraph sides of the Department should be granted a double increment in lieu of the next ordinary single increment, will he explain why sorting clerks and telegraphists who have been transferred from offices scheduled B, C, D, and E, to offices scheduled A are not being permitted to obtain the additional increment.

MR. HANBURY: The reason is that sorting clerks and telegraphists at B, C, D, and E Offices were required to possess the dual qualification as a condition of their appointment.

ALLEGED REDUCTION OF WAGES IN THE POST OFFICE.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, will he explain why a number of sorting clerks and telegraphists employed at provincial post offices had on being placed on the establishment their wages reduced; and whether he will take such steps as will result in the re-adjustment of the wages of officers so affected.

MR. HANBURY: The Postmaster-General is not aware of the cases referred to; but if the hon. Member furnishes particulars of them inquiry shall be made on the subject.

NORWICH AND GREAT YARMOUTH TELEPHONIC SERVICE.

SIR HARRY BULLARD (Norwich): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether he is aware that serious inconvenience is occasioned in consequence of the inefficient trunk line telephone communication between Norwich and Great Yarmouth; and whether he will take steps to remedy the same.

MR. HANBURY: An additional circuit between those places was opened in March last, and at present more than 50 per cent. of the calls are effected within five minutes. The electrical working of the wires is satisfactory. The traffic, however, is growing, and the Postmaster-General has at present under consideration the provision of additional facilities.

ORDNANCE SURVEY STAFF.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the Government have arrived at any determination as to the claim of the civil assistants of the Ordnance Survey for superannuation; and, if so, whether he would have any objection to state it to the House.

MR. HANBURY: Certain new proposals have within the last few days been received at the Treasury, but I have not

yet had the opportunity of properly considering them.

QUEENSTOWN RURAL POSTMEN.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether any decision has yet been arrived at relative to the case of the Queenstown rural postmen.

MR. HANBURY: The Postmaster-General regrets that it has not been possible to arrive at a decision on this application.

COLLINSTOWN POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether complaints have been made by persons resident in Kilpatrick and adjoining townlands in the Parish of Collinstown, County Westmeath, as to the inadequacy of the postal delivery as affecting them; whether he is aware that two messengers leave the Collinstown and Drumcree sub-offices in the morning, one taking the Castlepollard and the other the road leading to Kilpatrick; that the returning points of both are distant by about half a mile, and connected by a public road, along which line nine families, constantly in receipt of letters, are deprived of the house-to-house delivery extended to the rest of the parish; and whether steps will be taken to secure a delivery of letters to these persons, and relieve them of the necessity of sending private messengers two miles to the post office to get their letters.

MR. HANBURY: The Postmaster-General cannot trace the receipt of any complaints as to the postal delivery in Kilpatrick and adjoining townlands in the Parish of Collinstown, County Westmeath. There are two messengers leaving the Collinstown and Drumcree sub-offices in the morning, as stated in the hon. Member's question, and there is a section of road which neither of them traverses. A new post has, however, been authorised to commence on Monday next, by means of which a delivery will be afforded over this undelivered section every weekday.

PROCURATOR-FISCAL OF ORKNEY.

MR. HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether he is aware that the Procurator-Fiscal of Orkney was, by the Sheriff Substitute of Caithness, Orkney, and Shetland, at Kirkwall, appointed auditor of the accounts of the Commissioners of the Burgh of Kirkwall for the year ending in May, and that he accepted the appointment; and whether the terms of the commission under which the Procurator-Fiscal was appointed exclude him from undertaking any work outside the strict limits of the duties of his office; and, if so, whether he will take steps to ensure their future observance.

***THE LORD ADVOCATE** (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): Upon inquiry I find that the Sheriff Substitute of Caithness, Orkney, and Shetland had good and sufficient reasons for appointing the Procurator-Fiscal of Orkney to audit the burgh accounts of Kirkwall, as well as those of Stromness; and I do not consider that, having regard to the matter of the appointment, the Procurator-Fiscal went outside the terms of his appointment in accepting it.

BELFAST DISTURBANCES — CONSTABLE NULTY.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that, during the recent Belfast riots, a magistrate of that city objected to Constable Nulty doing point duty in his neighbourhood; that shortly afterwards he wrote a private letter to the constabulary authorities requesting that the constable be transferred; and that the constable, with a large family, was accordingly transferred, at great inconvenience, at one day's notice to a distant station; and whether any charge was made against the policeman; and, if so, what it was; and why was it not publicly investigated in the manner provided by the Constabulary Act, so that the constable might have had an opportunity of offering an explanation or making a defence.

MR. MACALEESE (Monaghan, N.): I beg at the same time to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland will he explain why Constable Nulty has been removed from Belfast, and upon whose complaint; whether on the repre-

sentation of a local justice or an alderman, without official inquiry and against the wish of the town commissioners, a policeman may be removed from Belfast; and will he communicate with the Inspector-General, Sir Andrew Reed, to the end that an inquiry may be held into the removal of Constable Nulty.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. G. W. BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): It is true that on the occasion of the recent disturbances in Belfast a magistrate of that city communicated with the Commissioner of Police relative to the constable named in the question. The matter was closely inquired into by the Commissioner, who was of opinion that it was expedient in the interests of the service and of the public to remove the constable from Belfast. He was accordingly transferred to an adjoining county, so as to put him to as little inconvenience as possible. The Commissioner and the Inspector-General have full power to remove a member of the force from his station whenever it may appear to them expedient from sufficient cause to take this step. The decision to remove Constable Nulty was only arrived at after careful investigation, and upon the strong recommendation of the Commissioner.

IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ORDERS.

MR. MAURICE HEALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the great multiplicity of the rules and orders issued under the Local Government Act, and that some of them are out of print and cannot be obtained from the Queen's printers, the Local Government Board will arrange to issue an official publication of the Local Government Act, the Local Government Registration Act, and all Orders in Council, rules, orders, rules of court, and all regulations of every kind issued under or in consequence of the Local Government Act.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR: I propose to move for a Return on the general lines suggested in the question; but I do not think it would be expedient to set out in full all the orders and rules issued by the

Local Government Board, some of which were of a purely temporary or local character. In such cases an enumeration would appear to be sufficient.

IRISH INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

MR. T. M. HEALY : I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland who is responsible for supplying him with the information as to the action of the mothers of the children from Nenagh, whose discharge he ordered from the industrial schools ; and if he is not satisfied of its accuracy, will he permit those of the children who are still retained at Birr School to remain there, seeing that otherwise they may have to enter the workhouse.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR : I presume the first paragraph refers to the date at which the mothers of the children referred to left Nenagh. In my reply to the hon. and learned Member's previous question of the 7th July, I stated that these women disappeared when the Order for the discharge of the children was issued on the 10th April. It has since been represented to me that they left Nenagh at a date antecedent to the order of discharge, although the actual date was not given by my correspondent. Without knowing the actual date I am not in a position to say how far this correction has any relevancy ; but in any case it would form only one element in the considerations which have led to the discharge of the children.

MR. T. M. HEALY : I hope that during the Recess the right hon. Gentleman will look into this matter and see whether, in mercy to the children, they cannot be left at the Birr School.

GRANARD UNION DISPENSARY DOCTOR.

MR. BLAKE (Longford, S.) : I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that an objection has been raised by the Local Government Board to the scale of remuneration proposed to be paid to the dispensary doctor of the Granard Union as inadequate, although two well-qualified gentlemen have applied for the appointment upon the terms stated in the advertisement ; and whether the Local Government Board have power to fix the salaries of dispensary doctors.

MR. G. W. BALFOUR : In the case referred to in the first paragraph, the late medical officer was paid a salary of £120 a year, and the guardians proposed to reduce this salary to £80. The Local Government Board have pointed out that the late medical officer had been in receipt of a salary of £120 since the year 1876, that the area under his charge was 22,146 acres, with a population of 4,452, that the medical relief tickets are more numerous than in any other dispensary district of the union except Granard, and that the Board were not prepared to approve of the permanent reduction of the salary as proposed. The Board have now, with my approval, fixed £100 as the Dispensary salary. Unless reasonable salaries are given, I do not see how the Board can hold medical officers strictly responsible for the prompt and efficient discharge of their duties in large and populous areas where the provision of the necessary means of locomotion entails heavy outlay and expense. The Board have full power, under Section 8 of the Medical Charities (Ireland) Act, 1851, to regulate the salaries and allowances of dispensary medical officers, and possibly this fact was taken into consideration by the candidates applying for the position.

PROSPECTIVE PARLIAMENTARY WORK.

MR. H. S. FOSTER (Suffolk, Lowestoft) : I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Government will consider, during the Recess, the introduction of a short amending Bill to enable the bishops to pronounce sentence of deprivation upon clergymen in a much shorter period than the three years prescribed by Section 17 of the Public Worship Regulation Act, 1874, in the case of continuing disobedience.

SIR THOMAS LEA (Londonderry) : I beg at the same time to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he is aware that the Reports of both sections of the Liquor Commission practically approve of the Sale of Intoxicating Liquor (Ireland) Bill ; and whether the Government will introduce a Bill next session, or give the necessary facilities for passing the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland) Bill.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester

E.) : In answer to my hon. friends, I have to say that the Government fully recognise the importance of both the subjects alluded to in the questions, but we do not think it desirable to give any pledge as to legislation for next session at the present time.

REPORT OF SUPPLY.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) : I wish to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he proposes to take the resolutions as they appear on the Paper, or to follow the precedent of last year and to postpone the Votes which were discussed last night, in order that we may discuss those which were not discussed.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : If my memory serves me right, the action I took last year was in response to a demand made that I should bring in certain specific Votes at an early hour on the last day. No such demand has reached me on this occasion, and therefore I have made no special arrangements. But perhaps I may appeal to the House to pass lightly over the Votes already discussed, in order that the time at its disposal might be devoted to Votes on which nothing has been said.

SIR CHARLES DILKE : Will the right hon. Gentleman, before next year, consider whether, by some modification of the rules, he cannot give the House an option in the matter?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : I think that some change as that suggested by the right hon. Baronet would be extremely convenient. At present the Government are bound to put down the Votes on the Report stage precisely in the order in which they are discussed in Committee. That is a restriction on our natural liberties which is not necessary for the conduct of business, and if I can make any change I shall be glad to do so.

IMPROVEMENT OF LAND BILL.

Lords Amendment to be considered forthwith ; considered, and agreed to.

COMPANIES BILL. [Lords.]

Ordered, That a Message be sent to the Lords to request that their Lordships

will be pleased to communicate to this House a Copy of the Report from the Select Committee appointed by their Lordships on the Companies Bill [Lords], with the Proceedings of the Committee, Minutes of Evidence, &c.—(*Mr. Ritchie.*)

COPYRIGHT BILL [Lords] AND COPYRIGHT ARTISTIC BILL. [Lords.]

Ordered, That a Message be sent to the Lords to request that their Lordships will be pleased to communicate to this House a Copy of the Report from the Select Committee appointed by their Lordships on the Copyright Bill [Lords] and the Copyright Artistic Bill [Lords], with the Proceedings of the Committee, Minutes of Evidence, &c.—(*Mr. Solicitor-General.*)

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—

METROPOLITAN POLICE BILL.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING (CLAUSES) BILL.

Without Amendment.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

BRADFORD TRAMWAYS AND IMPROVEMENT BILL.

With Amendments.

Amendments to—

COMMONS AND OPEN SPACES BILL [Lords].

HASTINGS HARBOUR BILL [Lords].

OYSTERMOUTH RAILWAY OR TRAM-ROAD BILL [Lords].

CLYDE NAVIGATION BILL [Lords].

Without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill intituled "An Act to amend the Companies Acts." [Companies Bill [Lords].]

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Lords Amendments to be considered upon Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 303.)

LICENSED PREMISES (HOURS OF SALE) (SCOTLAND).

Bill to alter the Law relating to the Hours during which Premises licensed for

the Sale of Excisable Liquors may be open in Scotland, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Provand, Captain Sinclair, Mr. Colville, and Mr. Ure.

LICENSED PREMISES (HOURS OF SALE) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To alter the Law relating to the Hours during which Premises licensed for the Sale of Excisable Liquors may be open in Scotland," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 304.)

SUPPLY [23RD ALLOTTED DAY] [3RD AUGUST].

Resolutions reported.

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES, 1899-1900.

CLASS I.

1. "That a sum, not exceeding £2,303 be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for maintaining certain Harbours under the Board of Trade."

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £17,500, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for constructing a new Harbour of Refuge at Peterhead."

CLASS II.

3. "That a sum, not exceeding £329,579, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for stationery, printing, paper, binding, and printed books for the public service, and for the salaries and expenses of the Stationery Office; and for sundry miscellaneous services, including Reports of Parliamentary Debates."

*MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet): I should like to ask the Secretary to the Treasury a question on this Vote, not with regard to matters which were talked over yesterday, but rather

opening up a new phase in connection with the publication of *Hansard's Debates*. I wish to point out that many hon. Members who ordered copies of the Debates and did not show that lack of precaution displayed by other hon. Members, but instead withheld payment are apparently still unable to get the contract fulfilled. I come within that category. I received some time ago the volumes for 1898 from the contractor, but as they were not bound according to sample I returned them. I have not yet received them back, but a bill has been sent to me charging for thirteen volumes with binding for 1898, £11 odd. Naturally I object to paying until I get the volumes. I did expect, when the arrangements passed into other hands, order would be evolved from chaos; but on applying to the trustee in bankruptcy I was told he had only seven of the thirteen volumes in his possession, and that they could be seen at his offices at Old Jewry Chambers. I went there this afternoon, climbed to the top of the building, and found I had been wasting my time as there was nobody there who knew anything about the matter and my volumes could not be produced. I do wish to urge that after the discreditable history of this matter it is highly desirable that care should be taken that the person who has charge in future shall be capable of carrying out his arrangements.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): I am glad to know that my right hon. friend is not one of those incautious people who paid for their volumes before they received them. My right hon. friend asks me to bear the blame, not only of the late contractor, but also of the trustee in bankruptcy. It is a little hard on the Government to be made responsible for that official, for we had nothing whatever to do with the appointment of that gentleman, who acts, I believe, under the direction of the court. My right hon. friend's only grievance, so far as I can see, is that his thirteen volumes are not forthcoming; but he has the satisfaction of knowing also that his £11 has not been forthcoming either. Therefore I do not see that he has much to complain of at present.

Vote agreed to.

4. "That a sum, not exceeding £3,454, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete

the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Board of Lunacy in Scotland."

5. "That a sum, not exceeding £2,829, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of the Registrar-General of Births, etc., in Scotland."

CLASS IV.

6. "That a sum, not exceeding £381,793, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Science and Art, and of the various Establishments connected therewith, including sundry Grants in Aid."

*MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): The House will be aware that by a Bill which has just passed through Parliament powers hitherto exercised by the Science and Art Department are merged in the new Board of Education, and therefore, a new situation is being created. Now, the policy of the Science and Art Department since 1897 has been to create local authorities without any statutory right, simply by order, memorandum or circular, advising that such authorities or committees be formed in particular localities for the purpose of distributing the Science and Art grant, and to superintend, classify, and regulate the education given in the classes in connection with that Department. The point I wish to raise is as to whether the new Education Board will continue the same policy of forming these local committees; whether we are to go on adding to the existing confusion of jurisdiction and authorities, or are we to hold our hands until the Bill promised by the Lord President of the Council, and by the right hon. Gentleman the Vice-President, constituting local authorities, has passed through Parliament? Or, again, is any effort in the meantime to be made by the Board of Education to simplify and regulate the present confused system? I have

always entered my protest on behalf of the School Boards in a number of our great towns against Article 7, under which these local committees have been appointed by the Science and Art Department. I have always lamented myself the form in which the Technical Instruction Act of 1889 was framed, however laudable its intentions, and however good its practical results to the students through the action of the various local authorities. I have always held that the effective control and development of secondary education, as well as elementary education, should be on the lines laid down by Mr. Acland in his Resolution of 1890, which he had no opportunity of moving, viz., that the simplification of all the issues in question lay in the formation of elective authorities deriving their authority from the people of the several districts. I have always held that the whole system of education—elementary, secondary, and technical—should be linked together and carried out on one broad general principle. Thus, by a system of direct election, education would be much more closely associated with the inhabitants of each area, so as to enlist the greatest enthusiasm and most active support of the largest number of persons, and especially of the working-classes. In short, the true solution lay in the direction pointed out by Mr. Acland years ago—the encouragement of the direct, as opposed to the indirect, election of the authorities. But the policy of the Science and Art Department, for two years past, has placed serious barriers all over the country against the true and natural development of the School Board system. The policy of Article 7, like the policy of the Bill of 1896, was distinctly directed to oust popular control permanently from those new branches of education towards which such popular control would naturally move forward if left alone to work itself out in its own way. I have protested against that policy in the past and shall continue to protest against it in the interests of our School Boards. I thank the Government for having introduced a Bill creating a Board of Education to deal, not merely with secondary and technical education, but with the whole subject. I thank the Vice-President also for having refused to accept Amendments which would have separated one branch from the other, and would have destroyed unity of administration. I trust that we shall not see in the

action of the new educational authority the policy persisted in of multiplying these nondescript authorities, illegal in their constitution and absolutely artificial in their construction, and not representative in any true sense of the word. However useful the work of some of them may be, they rest upon a wholly unsound basis, which we in this House, in the interests of the education of the people, ought to resist. This is not a new opinion, nor is it the opinion of specially advanced men, who would deal with these questions rather by theory than by practice. The right hon. Gentleman is well aware that the Report of the Schools Inquiry Commission long ago recommended the development of the control of these branches of education through directly-elected authorities as opposed to anything such as is now being carried out by the Science and Art Department. The Report pointed out that no school or organisation could do so much for education as the earnest co-operation of the people. I want to see enlisted the sympathies and active help of the largest number of people. I am speaking with some knowledge of the working of this question in my own division, for there, through the organisations of the working-classes in co-operative and friendly and trade societies, we have secured a body of representative working-men who are doing work of the highest possible importance. Of course, it is possible by nomination to secure the assistance of educational enthusiasts and experts, but it is far better to obtain their help by the method of direct election, for then they have behind them a force of popular opinion such as you cannot get behind nominated bodies. These nondescript bodies were patched together on no plan or principle, and there might be favouritism in selection. There ought to be a distinct Board elected on a representative basis. The recommendation of the Commission had been that half should be thus directly elected. It seems to me that the policy of the Education Bill of 1896 upon this question was—

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member appears to me to be dealing with matters of legislation, which are, therefore, not pertinent to the Resolution.

*MR. CHANNING: I fear, Sir, I have failed to convey my meaning. I was arguing that the exercise up to the present moment of the powers of the Science

Mr. Channing.

and Art Department in arbitrarily constituting local authorities, which have no direct basis in popular election, was not only undesirable but was opposed to what was recommended by an important Education Commission. But I need not pursue that subject further. All I ask is that the new Board of Education should adopt what seems to me to be a broader, more generous, and more popular view, and that it should not use the powers handed over to it by the Science and Art Department by continuing to create these local committees without any statutory basis whatever, but that it should rather suspend its action in this direction until the Bill constituting local authorities to deal with these questions passes through Parliament. In conclusion, I will only say that I have regarded, and do regard, in the same sense, I believe, as the present Lord President of the Council did in 1876, direct authority as the only proper solution of these complicated issues, and the only solution which will bring to bear upon them the forces which tend most strongly to the highest possible development of education. And, in order to emphasise the expression of that opinion on behalf of those who are interested in the great School Boards of the country, I now move the reduction of the Vote by £100.

Amendment proposed—

“To leave out ‘£381,793,’ and insert ‘£381,693.’”—(*Mr. Channing.*)

Question proposed, “That ‘£381,793’ stand part of the Resolution.”

*MR. JAMES LOWTHER: I think the hon. Gentleman has certainly shown that the present state of affairs with regard to the administration of the Science and Art Department is very unsatisfactory, although there is some hope for us to be found in the fact that this body is to be largely abolished, and some steps are to be taken to mitigate the evils of which complaint is justly made. May I ask my right hon. friend if he can hold out any expectation that one very mischievous policy of the Department will henceforth cease to be enforced? It has, in pursuance of powers which have been handed over to it under the head of technical manual instruction, provided for instruction in Latin and Portuguese,

amongst other subjects which appear wholly outside technical or manual instruction. I warned my colleagues upon the county council of which I am a member not to allow the Science and Art Department to mismanage affairs, and succeeded in getting Latin and Portuguese struck off the list of subjects which might be taught at the public expense; but there are still many absurd subjects remaining, and I fear the abuse is one which prevails in many other parts of the country. The Science and Art Department appears to be a body which is, to a large extent, independent; for when we call attention to its vagaries the right hon. Gentleman tells us that the matters are not within his official cognisance. But he also assures us that he exercises personal superintendence, and therefore I hold he must be responsible for the schedule to which I have just called attention. It is evidently clear that money intended by Parliament to be devoted to technical education has been improperly used by school boards, and notably the London School Board, for other purposes, and I did hope that when this practice of breaking the law was brought under his notice, the right hon. Gentleman would have given us some assurance that it would be put a stop to. I think we ought to expect that my right hon. friend, who has acknowledged his responsibility to this House for the action of the bodies on whose behalf he speaks, should insist on the law being obeyed. The school boards of this country have undoubtedly made themselves extremely unpopular in various ways, but that they should deliberately break the law, and that the official representative of the Department in Parliament should confess his inability to make them observe the law is, I think, a public scandal. I hope my right hon. friend will give us an assurance that if it is brought to his knowledge that any public body over which he exercises official control is breaking the law, he will take steps to see that the law is observed.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.): I always listen with interest and respect to the criticisms which my right hon. friend passes on matters of this kind. As I understand him, he enters a protest against the teaching of foreign languages in our public schools.

***MR. JAMES LOWTHER**: Oh, no. I was only referring to the schedule of subjects issued by the Science and Art Department for the guidance of County Councils.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT: In whatever direction my right hon. friend's criticisms were directed, I venture to say that the teaching of foreign languages in our schools is a matter which demands most careful consideration.

***MR. JAMES LOWTHER**: What about Latin?

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT: I do not include Latin, although it is very advantageous as a basis for acquiring other languages. Take Portuguese. Some people may regard Portuguese as an out-of-the-way language, but my knowledge of the demands of commercial education tells me that three languages are of especial importance—Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese. Anyone who is familiar, for instance, with the demands of the South American trade must be perfectly well aware that unless our people are very much better equipped with the instruments of international trade they will lose ground, as they are doing now to some extent, in the commercial competition of the world. I know of no language which is more useful, and which is more practically and peculiarly advantageous to the person who knows it than Spanish. In the City, a person who has a thorough knowledge of Spanish can command a considerably higher salary than a person knowing almost any other language. In teaching French and other foreign languages in our Board schools, we are performing a national and absolutely necessary duty. It may be said that a knowledge of French, Spanish, and Portuguese would be unnecessary in many cases, but we have to teach all those things that suit the people generally, and then let the individual make practical use of them. I distinctly approve of the suggestion of teaching foreign languages in our schools, as the want of knowledge of them frequently hampers our trade with other nations.

MR. YOXALL (Nottinghamshire, W.): I quite agree with the right hon. Gentle-

man that Portuguese is a very important language, and that instruction in foreign languages and other commercial subjects is quite as important to this country as technical and manual instruction. We have in this country, shops, factories, and mills, with an admirable and practical system of instruction in technical and manual subjects, but we have no system of instruction in commercial subjects; whereas in Switzerland, France, and Belgium there are well-equipped commercial schools. I rejoice to know that England and Wales are at last doing something in this direction also. On this Vote I had intended to indulge in many strictures on the administration of the Science and Art Department, but I feel that we are at the outset of a new era, as a result of the passing of the Board of Education Bill. The administration of the Department will probably be transformed, and we shall obtain a new charter for science and art teaching in this country. Under the circumstances, I will not trouble the House with the observations I had intended to make. I hope that there will be a proper development of really artistic teaching, and also of technical and manual teaching; and if we are prepared for that, I do not think in a few years we shall regard our country as so far behind in educational matters as it is at present.

MR. LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): I only wish to ask the right hon. Gentleman, in any re-organisation that may be made in the Department, not to forget the claim of Wales to a museum grant. The right hon. Gentleman has treated us with great courtesy in the matter, and it is therefore not necessary for me to say anything further.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (Sir J. GORST, Cambridge University): I hope the hon. Member for East Northamptonshire will excuse me if I do not follow him at length in the speech he made on the conduct of the Science and Art Department with reference to Section 7. I have often explained in this House what has been done. The Science and Art Department make use of the Technical Instruction Committees and other local bodies to distribute grants. The system prevents overlapping and has proved otherwise

effective, and I am very glad that the policy of Section 7 is making steady progress, and that a number of county and borough councils are coming into the scheme. As far as I know, the present Department has no intention of modifying that policy.

*MR. CHANNING: Do I understand the right hon. Gentleman to admit that the Science and Art Department has taken it upon itself to delegate the duty of distributing these grants to locally created bodies which have no statutory basis?

SIR J. GORST: The Science and Art Department has power to do that. It is doing what it has a perfect right to do, in a manner which it thinks most economical and wise. With regard to the speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Thanet, the Department has never sanctioned Latin. As regards Portuguese, the Science and Art Department has no control in the matter at all. The right hon. Gentleman was very severe on the Department because it had not prevented the illegal expenditure of money by the London School Board in teaching science and art. I explained to the House on a previous occasion that it has pleased Parliament to entrust the control of school board expenditure, not to the Education Department, but to the Local Government Board. The Science and Art Department cannot interfere with the London School Board, and has no right to say whether a particular item of expenditure is right or wrong. As to the legality of the expenditure, the decision is with the Local Government Board. I have no power to make school boards observe the law, but while on this particular case, I am very glad of the opportunity of stating how the matter stands. No doubt the auditor of the School Board for London has decided that its expenditure upon science and art teaching is illegal, and his general decision is expressed in every case in these words:

"School boards have no legal authority to use, expend, or apply any portion of the school funds in or about the instruction or examination of day schools or classes in science and art."

The decision of the auditor has not been appealed against.

Mr. Yoxall.

MR. FLOWER (Bradford, W.): The School Board for London has applied to the Local Government Board on two or three occasions for permission to appeal against the decision of the auditor.

SIR J. GORST: At any rate, there is the ruling laid down by the auditor. This is not the first time that a decision of that kind has been given; it has never been upset, and I have no doubt whatever that that expresses the law. What is the Science and Art Department to do in these circumstances? It is quite clear that it cannot abruptly withdraw all its grants, and it must assume that the School Board will now bring itself within the law. But we could hardly expect a change of that kind to be made in a week or a fortnight, especially if the School Board are appealing against the decision. As to the question of a museum grant for Wales, I have no doubt that it will receive most favourable consideration from the new Board of Education.

MR. FLOWER: With regard to the question of the science and art money, there has been a conflict of authority and great difficulty in ascertaining what is, and what is not, the law on the subject. My right hon. friend says the decision arrived at by the Local Government Board was not a new decision, but was in confirmation of previous decisions. As far as I know, the last case was decided in 1889—ten years ago—and since that time the School Board has gone on establishing schools and classes which have been to a very large extent successful, and which have undoubtedly played a very important part in the work of public education. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Isle of Thanet spoke about the action of the School Board for London, and drew attention to the fact that a part of the expenditure had been surcharged by the Local Government Board. The right hon. Gentleman wanted to know what the London School Board are going to do. As a member of that distinguished body, I should like to assure my right hon. friend that we are going to obey the

law, but we wish to ascertain what the law really is. That is a very important matter, and one which affects not London only, but all interested in education throughout the country, and I am bound to say that I think if the School Board for London appeals, as I believe they intend to, they will take the right course in the matter. My right hon. friend knows that so far as one of the chief sources of our overlapping is concerned, the School Board for London have entered into amicable and convenient working arrangements with the Technical Instruction Board and the London County Council, which will, I trust, prevent these evils in the future. With regard to the local authorities, I sympathise a great deal with the theory held by the hon. Member for East Northamptonshire. I think that the school boards have established, by long and consistent service, the right to claim some representation on these new authorities. The Royal Commission offered very fair and practicable terms, and I hope that the Department will, so far as they can, see that these school boards in the country have a fair and adequate representation.

SIR W. HART-DYKE (Kent, Dartford): As the hon. Member for East Northamptonshire laid a rather heavy hand on an offspring of mine—the Technical Instruction Act—I should like to say one word with regard to it. In framing that measure I was met with some difficulty at every point. But the operation of the Act has grown, and spread a veritable network of technical instruction throughout the country. I believe that in future it will assist to solve the remaining difficulties of our educational system, by leading to the formation of local authorities for secondary education.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 99; Noes, 36. (Division List, No. 358.)

AYES.

Arnold, Alfred
 Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
 Barnes, Frederick Gorell
 Barton, Dunbar Plunket
 Bathurst, Hon. A. Benjamin
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
 Bethell, Commander
 Bhowaggee, Sir M. M.
 Bigwood, James
 Blundell, Colonel H.
 Boulnois, Edmund
 Brassey, Albert
 Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worcester)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
 Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)
 Cox, Irwin Edwd. Bainbridge
 Curzon, Viscount
 Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Drage, Geoffrey
 Drucker, A.

Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edwd.
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 Flower, Ernest
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. J.
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. R. W.
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
 Howard, Joseph
 Hozier, Hon. Jas. Henry Cecil
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Kimber, Henry
 Knowles, Lees
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning- (Corn)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lea, Sir Thos. (Londonderry)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn- (Swans)
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
 Lowther, Rt. Hon. Jas. (Kent)
 Maclure, Sir John William

Malcolm, Ian
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Purvis, Robert
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matthew W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chs. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Ernest
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
 Williams, Joseph Powell- (Birm)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
 Wyndham, George
 TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Ambrose, Robert
 Asher, Alexander
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Bainbridge, Emerson
 Caldwell, James
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Harwood, George
 Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)

Hedderwick, Thomas Charles H.
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kilbride, Denis
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
 Macaleese, Daniel
 McEwan, William
 Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
 Moss, Samuel
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Connor, J. (Wicklow, W.)

Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Souttar, Robinson
 Steadman, William Charles
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Ure, Alexander
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Channing and Mr.
 Yoxall.

7. "That a sum, not exceeding £106,030 (including a Supplementary sum of £3,750), be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and other Expenses of the British Museum, and of the Natural History Museum, including certain Grants in Aid."

8. "That a sum, not exceeding £6,149, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day

of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the National Gallery, and of the National Gallery of British Art, Millbank, including a Grant in Aid for the purchase of Pictures."

9. "That a sum, not exceeding £2,981, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the National Portrait Gallery, including a Grant in Aid for the purchase of Portraits."

10. "That a sum, not exceeding £6,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete

the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Wallace Collection (Hertford House)."

11. "That a sum, not exceeding £67,700, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for Grants in Aid of the Expenses of certain Universities and Colleges in Great Britain, and of the Expenses under the Welsh Intermediate Education Act, 1889."

12. "That a sum, not exceeding £4, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the University of London."

13. "That a sum, not exceeding £701,861, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for Public Education in Scotland, and for Science and Art in Scotland."

14. "That a sum, not exceeding £2,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for a Grant to the Board of Trustees for Manufactures in Scotland in aid of the maintenance of the National Gallery, School of Art, and Museum of Antiquities, Scotland."

15. "That a sum, not exceeding £621,117, be granted to Her Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Expenses of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, including a Grant in Aid of the Teachers' Pension Fund, Ireland."

16. "That a sum, not exceeding £560, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Expenses of the Office of the Commissioners for manag-

ing certain School Endowments in Ireland."

17. "That a sum, not exceeding £1,300, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the National Gallery of Ireland, including a Grant in Aid for the purchase of Pictures."

18. "That a sum, not exceeding £2,450, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for a Grant in Aid of the Expenses of the Queen's Colleges in Ireland."

CLASS V.

19. "That a sum, not exceeding £277,335, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Expenses of Her Majesty's Embassies and Missions Abroad, and of the Consular Establishments Abroad and other Expenditure chargeable on the Consular Vote."

Resolutions agreed to.

20. "That a sum, not exceeding £154,463, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for Grants in Aid of the Expenses of the British Protectorates in Uganda and in Central and East Africa, and under The Uganda Railway Act, 1896."

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I gave notice to move in Committee of Supply a reduction upon two particular items in this Vote: Item (a) in respect to Uganda, which includes the Martyr Expedition, and Item (c) in respect to British East Africa, which includes the Juba Expedition. I propose to take the two together at this present stage of Report, and to move a reduction of £200. I shall be very brief, in accordance with the general desire that we have to discuss as many as possible of the Votes to-day which were not discussed yesterday or

previously. We have a certain difficulty in discussing this Vote in the absence of the Under Secretary, because the few words we wish to say are chiefly on points as to which he has full information, which is probably not in the possession of other members of the Government. But I have no doubt he will be here directly. The Martyr Expedition, which is provided for in this Vote, is an expedition which was despatched from Uganda down the Nile, in the direction of Fashoda, to put it generally. It has continued, and is still upon the Nile at the present time, and it has followed the course of the Nile, and not left it for any considerable distance. The Martyr Expedition found the Congolese forces on the Congo side of the Nile, outside that district to which it was supposed they were confined. The Congolese, by an arrangement with this country, received two leases of territory which we claimed as being a portion of the British sphere of influence, which has since been called the Anglo-Egyptian sphere of influence upon the Nile. One lease dealt with a strip of land along the Nile bank, and the other lease concerned the whole of the territory at the back of that strip, and is generally called the Bahr-el-Ghazal country. The two leases together covered the whole, or nearly the whole, of the Egyptian province of Bahr-el-Ghazal. These leases were denounced by France, acting in concurrence with Germany, Germany not being herself concerned in these particular leases, and the result of the action of France and Germany was that the King of the Belgians renounced to France, without any negotiations with this country, the whole of one of those two leases and a half of the second. The King of the Belgians promised the French Government he would withdraw his troops and his officers from the whole of the Bahr-el-Ghazal country, and from a point about the middle of the other strip along the Nile, and he withdrew his forces into what is commonly called the Lado *enclave*. Our Government took no action in this matter, but left the King of the Belgians to make his own agreement with France. I have put questions twice this session to the Government with regard to what is to be the future of these territories. At one moment the Government have spoken of these territories as though they were of great potential or great future value. On

Sir Charles Dilke.

two occasions recently they have told us that they cannot make any statement with regard to the future of these territories, that at present the country is too unsettled and there is too little known about it, and that it is impossible at present to make any definite statement with regard to the future. Now, Sir, the King of the Belgians or his friends in Brussels have been stating repeatedly of late that he is the inheritor of this country, that the leases are still existent, and that the whole of the Bahr-el-Ghazal territory which was at one time in dispute between the Anglo Egyptians on the one side and the French on the other will fall to him. The Government here have very carefully abstained from denying that statement. They have twice been asked about it, and they have only said that they could say nothing at present with regard to what is to be the future of this country. Now, we have at least once debated in this House the character of Congolese rule; some of us have made strong statements based upon the knowledge that is before the different geographical societies, and which is given to us by the formal documents of the Congo State itself, with regard to the nature of the rule of the Congo State. I think it may be said without the slightest fear of contradiction that the Congolese rule is the worst of the rules to which any portion of the African peoples are subject. Some of us have always attacked this policy of leases to the Congo State. I am one of those who do not believe in the value of the interior of Africa, or in the likelihood of our getting back the money we spend there. But we are there; we have incurred an immense responsibility by being there, and, being there, the worst thing we can possibly do for the territories is to hand them over to the Congo State. Therefore the reduction which I have moved with regard to the expenditure on the Martyr Expedition is intended to elicit from the Government some statement as to what is to be the future of these territories, as to whether the King of the Belgians is right in stating that these leases to him still continue and that he is to be the ruler of the whole of the Bahr-el-Ghazal territory. In the absence of the Under Secretary we shall not be able, I suppose, to get any assurances from the Government, and it is a little difficult to debate the matter at all in his absence.

The only other remark I will make upon item (a) is that the cost of the Uganda Protectorate is very great, in spite of a distinct statement to this House at the time that Protectorate was entered upon that the cost to this country would not exceed £50,000 a year. When we are asked to engage upon other operations of a similar kind, and when we are told that the cost of those operations will be very small, and when we get Bills like the Bill we were debating a few days ago and are told that the net cost of certain operations will be but a very small sum, it is interesting to remember how enormous the expenditure on Uganda has been against the definite statement that the total expenditure would not exceed £50,000 a year. With regard to the reduction on the other item I have named—item (c)—that concerns the Juba Expedition. I have never known any case in the whole course of my experience of this House where the House has been so completely misled by a Government as in the case of the Juba Expedition. When that expedition was first sent out the very name of it suggested that it was an expedition in the direction of the River Juba, a river the first 200 miles of which have been frequently traversed by small British men-of-war, and the upper course of which have been followed by three distinguished British travellers, and which is as well known as any of the African rivers. The object of the expedition, however, was explained to us in a Blue Book, and there was a curious phrase in that Blue Book which went to show that its real object was to anticipate the French at Fashoda. It is now admitted by the Prime Minister that that was the case, that the expedition never was intended to go anywhere in the direction of the Juba, and that it was intended to go in the direction I have specified. Colonel Macdonald, the head of the expedition, has recently read a paper before the Geographical Society, and has given a full and complete account of the expedition. [At this point the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs entered the House.] I am glad to see the Under Secretary now in his place. I was just saying that the House had been entirely misled originally with regard to the Juba Expedition, and that the extent to which they had been misled had been now shown by the Prime Minister's speech in another place, and by the paper which Colonel

Macdonald has recently read before the Geographical Society, and the map which accompanies that paper. Of course, we know that the Juba Expedition was virtually stopped by the rising in Uganda, and that it only succeeded in reaching a point twenty miles to the north of Lake Rudolph, which had been passed by three previous travellers, and of which we had complete surveys and full information, and then it went off in another direction straight towards the Nile. There it got within about 100 miles of Lado, a point on the Nile which was occupied by Congolese forces, and about which, also, everything is known. The discoveries made by Colonel Macdonald's Expedition within 100 miles of the Nile are of some geographical interest; they add to our knowledge about the country, but they are entirely outside the scope of the operations which it was pretended this Expedition was to undertake; and instead of being in the direction of the River Juba, they are in exactly an opposite direction, as we always said they were intended to be. I merely mention that to show how absolutely the House was misled when it was asked to incur expenditure on the Juba Expedition. [The right hon. Gentleman then briefly re-stated that portion of his speech which he had delivered in the absence of the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and moved the reduction of the Vote by £200.]

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '£154,463,' and insert '£154,263.'"—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)

Question proposed, "That '£154,463' stand part of the Resolution."

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MR. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford) was understood to say that the right hon. Baronet asked for information as to a divergence of opinion of which he had also complained in March last, when the matter was discussed. The complaint amounted to this, that Colonel Macdonald was sent on an Expedition to Lake Rudolph, the Expedition was afterwards diverted in the direction of the Nile, but the House was not originally told that the Expedition would be sent in that direction.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: We were told differently by the Government.

*MR. BRODRICK said the whole matter could be divided into two parts. The late Under Secretary made a statement a year and a half ago, and the right hon. Baronet now complained that it did not tally with a statement made some months afterwards. The primary object of Colonel Macdonald's Expedition was of an exploring nature, but months afterwards further possibilities undoubtedly did present themselves, and Colonel Martyr, six months after the late Under Secretary made his statement, did start with the object of going down the Nile. He had never been able to see on what the right hon. Baronet's grievance was based. His grievance was that he was not taken fully into counsel at the earliest possible moment as to what might possibly be the ultimate result of Colonel Macdonald's Expedition. But when the troops were sent to the Nile, it was announced at the earliest possible date after the meeting of Parliament, and he (the speaker) could not see that the right hon. Baronet had any serious grievance. With regard to the leases to the Congo State, they were made subject to rights of Egypt. Those rights, which were then dormant, were now revived, and obviously in any negotiations those rights would have to be considered. The right hon. Baronet had said he did not believe in the value of this territory —

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: I said that, personally, I had my doubts as to the value of the country. But putting that aside altogether, I say we are morally responsible for its future, and we ought not to hand it over to so bad a Government as that of the Congolese.

*MR. BRODRICK thought a great deal of the value must depend upon the results of the surveying which would be undertaken, but until it was known what works might at some future date be undertaken with regard to the White Nile, it was obviously impossible to make any statement on the subject. The right hon. Baronet had also said that the cost of the Uganda Protectorate ought not to exceed £50,000 a year.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: No. I alluded, in passing, to the fact that £50,000 was named as the outside sum when the Uganda Protectorate was taken over. I was using that fact as showing how greatly the House is deceived by estimates of that kind.

MR. BRODRICK pointed out that estimates were liable to change, but the Foreign Office were sanguine that the estimates now put before the House would be ultimately brought within narrower limits. Sir Henry Johnston, an administrator of great experience, had been sent out, and it was hoped that both civil and military administrations would be put on a basis suitable to carry on the work, and at the same time reduce the expenditure. The House must guard itself from believing that in such cases as these the exact future expenditure could be foretold, but the Estimates were very carefully prepared. With regard to the condition of the Uganda Protectorate, it was a great deal better than it was four or five months ago. The mutiny had completely died out, and there was no doubt whatever that the work of administration would be proceeded with greater experience, and might be expected to assimilate to the work in East Africa, where revenue was coming in and the expenditure was being brought within reasonable limits.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): The hon. Gentleman reminds me of a duty which I have no intention of performing. The hon. Gentleman expects me to say something as to the railroad in Uganda, but as I cannot enter into that subject in the way I desire I will only say this. The hon. Gentleman insists that we shall be able to finish that railroad at the estimated cost. If the railroad is finished at the amount of the estimate, I will frankly admit that I am in the wrong; if it is not, then the hon. Gentleman, with that candour for which he is famed, will admit that he is wrong. We have always been told that we may anticipate that expenditure will be less in the future; the hon. Gentleman is of a somewhat sanguine mind if he thinks it will be so in this case. It will be found that Uganda does not pay its way, and the result will be that we shall gradually

retire from that country. The ultra-Jingo persons will grumble, but the Government will withdraw from places like Uganda. The Chancellor of the Exchequer usually takes sound financial views in these matters, and it will become more and more difficult to obtain money from him, and we shall retire from that country. I certainly think my right hon. friend has a grievance with regard to this Juba Expedition. The House was told that the object of the Expedition was to explore the sources of the Juba river—why, I do not know; but money having been obtained for that specific purpose, the Expedition never went near the Juba

river. The money, I believe, has been entirely thrown away. With regard to the Bahr-el-Ghazal, it is common knowledge that commercially it is entirely valueless, and my own impression is that, just as in the end we shall retire from Uganda, so in the end we shall withdraw from the Bahr-el-Ghazal. Because I believe this will be the result with these territories, I have always been against the expenditure of money on these expeditions. They do no good, and simply waste money.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 103; Noes, 47. (Division List, No. 359.)

AYES.

Arnold, Alfred
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. A. Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boulnois, Edmund
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
Carlile, William Walter
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birmingham)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worcester)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cook, C. W. R. (Hereford)
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
Curzon, Viscount
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chatham)

Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-Drage, Geoffrey
Drucker, A.
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edwd.
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Flower, Ernest
Galloway, William Johnson
Gilliat, John Saunders
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. George's)
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Gull, Sir Cameron
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm
Howard, Joseph
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Cornwall)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorkshire)
Lea, Sir T. (London)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewellyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swansea)
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)

Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverpool)
Maclure, Sir John William
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Malcolm, Ian
Milward, Colonel Victor
Monk, Charles James
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deftford)
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Pierpoint, Robert
Purvis, Robert
Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir Matt. W.
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer, Ernest
Stanley, Hn. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Tomlinson, Wm. E. Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Williams, Jos. Powell (Birmingham)
Wyndham, George
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Ambrose, Robert
Asher, Alexander
Atherly-Jones, L.
Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
Bainbridge, Emerson
Calwell, James
Cameron, Robert (Durham)
Channing, Francis Allston
Crilly, Daniel
Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
Dalziel, James Henry
Dillon, John

Donelan, Captain A.
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Gourley, Sir Edward T.
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-Healy, Timothy M. (North Louth)
Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
Horniman, Frederick John
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
Lawson, Sir W. (Cumberland)
Lewis, John Herbert

Macaleese, Daniel
M'Ewan, William
Maddison, Fred.
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Moss, Samuel
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Connor, Arthur (Donegal)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Randell, David
Steadman, William Charles

Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wallace, Robert
Whiteley, George (Stockport)

Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, John Carvell (Notts)
Wilson, Henry J. (Yorks, W.R.)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir Charles Dilke and Mr.
Labouchere.

21. "That a sum, not exceeding £1,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for a Grant in Aid of the Revenue of the Island of Cyprus."

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT: I desire to offer my very cordial acknowledgment to the right hon. Gentleman, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, for what he has done for the island of Cyprus since he came into office. I had an opportunity of visiting the island in the early part of this year, and I found in every way, both material and economic, evidence of material improvement. The roads are very much better than they used to be. Good and substantial bridges have replaced fords which formerly were almost impassable, and land drains have been made which are the means of carrying off the occasional floods which sometimes do a great deal of devastation. The great difficulty of the island has always been the droughts to which it has been subjected. On one occasion, I believe, a drought lasted for thirty years; but, happily, recently there has been great improvement owing to the afforestation which has taken place, and the droughts now are neither so great or so frequent as they used to be. One of the chief ways in which the right hon. Gentleman has served the island is by meeting the great physical difficulty of the island, which consists in the steepness of the descent to the sea from mountains very near the coast. This led to the rain water rapidly passing away, thus producing the droughts. At Famagusta a great reservoir for irrigation purposes has been constructed, and that I think will be the means of preventing the effects of drought to a large extent. As in Egypt, the result of irrigation will be to increase the productive powers of the island, and, consequently, very greatly increase the prosperity of the inhabitants. Any one who has been in Cyprus knows the difficulty of either landing on or getting away from the island. That has to be done in an open roadstead, and frequently travellers have been detained on the island for a considerable period, owing to

steamers not being able to get close in shore. An improved service of steamers has been arranged for. All goods have to be trans-shipped into lighters at considerable cost, and risk at times; but, in spite of these difficulties, there has been great growth in the shipping industry and regular communication has been established between the island and Liverpool, Hull, and other British ports. That communication is greatly stimulating the production of the island, particularly as regards the fruit of the carob tree, which is the principal ingredient in the manufacture of feeding stuffs. There has also been a considerable stimulus of the local industries of the island, owing to the general improvements that have taken place. The wine production has considerably increased. When the Chancellor of the Exchequer proposed to increase the wine duties, I wrote him a letter pointing out the effect that would have on this industry. Even he was not aware how great was the recent growth of the wine industry of the island, both for actual consumption, and as a basis for the wines of other countries. The methods of manufacture are greatly improved, and I believe the industry will speedily attain to very considerable importance. Not only has the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for the Colonies done excellent work in improving external communication, but he is making a railway from Famagusta to Nicosia, which will cross the most fertile plain in the island, and which will be found to be a distinctly reproductive and remunerative work. I had a conversation with Lieutenant Richards, R.E., who told me there are no engineering difficulties, and that in all likelihood the railway will be extremely useful. The silk industry, in which I know the right hon. Gentleman takes a great interest, has been advanced, and the planting of mulberry trees has greatly increased of recent years. There are some old and some new textile industries, which, to say the least, are very promising. Perhaps the best feature in the present condition of the island is the collective and co-operative agriculture which has been established. That system, which has done so much for

Denmark, and, to a less extent, for Ireland, promises to be distinctly useful to the trade of the island. The stock and the character of the seeds have been very much improved, owing to the measures taken by the right hon. Gentleman. Even in municipal matters there has been progress. At Limasol, the water supply, sanitation, and education are conducted under municipal auspices. For these things I am able to convey to the right hon. Gentleman the assurances of the gratitude of the Cypriotes, and the firm belief that, in doing what he has done, he has promoted the prosperity of the island, and of the Empire of which it forms a part. The present proposal is for a new grant in aid. Grants in aid are acceptable, but I am bound to add that the feeling in the island, which is well founded, is that these grants in aid would be wholly superfluous and unnecessary if the island were dependent on its own financial resources. If the tribute to Turkey had not to be paid, there would be a large surplus, and that surplus could be devoted to public works. The feeling in the island is very strong against the tribute, and is a source of very great discontent. I have had the opportunity of seeing many of those who take an active interest in the affairs of the island, and one and all protest against the payment of the tribute, because it prevents the execution of public works out of the island's own resources, and also because it is a very great limitation on the reproductive powers of the island, owing to the high taxation, having regard to the means of the inhabitants. Various causes have been attributed to the origin of the tribute. One is that our Ambassador was not fully aware of the facts, that the amount paid to Turkey in the past was exaggerated, and not properly collected, that it was paid very irregularly and in paper currency, and was not equivalent to the sum the island is now called upon to pay. If the original proposals of this country had been carried out; if, as was first intended, Cyprus had been made a place of arms, and if great public works had been constructed there, the tribute might have become a matter of comparatively less importance. But now we have changed our whole policy, and these great public works will probably never be carried out. Yet the island is called upon to pay a very large sum, in the fixing of which it had no part. I do think that

there is a claim on the consideration of this country, and that the strong feeling which exists in the island on the subject is not without some foundation. I am quite aware that the association of the tribute with the guaranteed loan of 1855, is accidental. At the same time, it is a very singular circumstance that the amount of the tribute and the interest on that loan closely coincide, and one theory is, that the fixture of the amount of the tribute was a very convenient mode of dealing with that financial matter. I know that this is a matter with which the Chancellor of the Exchequer is primarily concerned, but it is one on which some change should be made. One other subject I must mention, and that is that the wharfage dues, which were intended to be temporary, have been made permanent, and no considerable portion of them is devoted, as the islanders think they should be, to the construction of piers, harbours, and like works. Another complaint is that articles of general antiquarian interest have been removed from the island to this country, America, and elsewhere, instead of being left on the island for the attraction of travellers, and the education of its own people. I repeat, that from my own observation, from the results which are already apparent, from the cordial feeling of the islanders themselves, the greatest obligation is felt to the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for the Colonies for his policy of development in this, as in other colonial possessions of the Empire.

*MR. CHANNING : As I had a motion for the reduction of this Vote, which I was unable to move yesterday, I should like to say a few words on this subject. I should wish to associate myself with what the hon. Member for Islington has said as to the wisdom of the right hon. Gentleman in developing the resources of Cyprus. My own opinion is that Cyprus should form part of the Hellenic kingdom of the future, and I hope that may be a happy solution of the problem in the Eastern part of the Mediterranean. Undoubtedly, as long as Cyprus is under the control of British power, it should be treated in the spirit of the kindly and wise administration of the right hon. Gentleman. The only question I wish to bring before the House is that of the tribute, on the grounds of the interest of

the taxpayers of this country, as well as in the interest of the inhabitants of Cyprus. It is perfectly clear that if it were not for the tribute there would be a considerable surplus in the revenues of Cyprus, even if taxation were reduced, which might be applied to useful public works in the island. That is impossible now, because the tribute paid to Turkey creates a deficit which in some years amounts to a considerable sum. This tribute is connected with the guarantee of the payment of certain loans advanced to the Sultan in 1855 by various speculators in England and France, with whom I have but slender sympathy. It seems to me that the financial genius of the British Government should be devoted to meet the views of the inhabitants of Cyprus, and that some reasonable compromise should be come to as to the payment of the tribute. I would invite the right hon. Gentleman to indicate whether some means may not be arrived at, if not to extinguish the whole of the tribute, at any rate, to reduce it to something like the proportion which it ought to have been when the undertaking was given in connection with the Cyprus Convention. I should like, if I were in order, to enter on the wider topic, whether we have not the right to deal with this tribute in connection with the terms of the Cyprus Convention. We have done nothing within the whole of these years to insist on the Sultan performing his part of the contract, in regard to the protection of the Christian population of the East from barbarous cruelties. It seems to me not beyond the reach of statesmanship to make this question of the tribute a means by which we can enforce on the Sultan the carrying out of these obligations.

*MR. PIERPOINT (Warrington): I desire to associate myself entirely with all which my hon. friend the Member for South Islington has said concerning the good work done by the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for the Colonies for the inhabitants of Cyprus. I think it would be a small thing to say that the right hon. Gentleman has done more for the island than all the other Colonial Secretaries since the occupation of the island. I wish he could see his way, in consultation with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to provide for further public works on the island. I have had the opportunity

Mr. Channing.

lately of suggesting to the right hon. Gentleman that Famagusta should be a free port, so that merchants, instead of taking their goods to Beirut, where they have to pay very heavy customs duties, should bring them to Famagusta, where they would be able to draw from their stocks as orders came in from Asia Minor and Syria. They would therefore have only to pay duties on such stock as was required for immediate sale. Then, Famagusta could be made into a commercial harbour. There can be no doubt that the existing harbour is too small to accommodate any but very small ships, and I hope that the success of the experiment which the right hon. Gentleman is now making will justify the enlargement of the harbour at Famagusta, and that the time may even come when the First Lord of the Admiralty shall establish a naval arsenal there, for nature has provided it with accommodation which would allow of the swinging of twelve ironclads. As to the wharfage dues, touched on by the hon. Member for South Islington, this question affects Limasol and Larnaca, where particularly the grievance is felt that these dues are not devoted to the improvement of the harbours. Larnaca is only an open roadstead with a very small harbour, and if the surf happens to be running, it is impossible to land men or goods. I hope the right hon. Gentleman will take into consideration the claims of merchants, both in Larnaca and Limasol, to improve the harbour accommodation there. The money might be provided or a grant-in-aid. I have great hopes of the future of the island under its present enlightened administration. For taking the figures since its occupation in 1878, the whole of the revenues amounted, up to 31st March, 1898, to nearly three and a-half millions, and the expenditure on the island during that period has only been about two and a-quarter millions, leaving an excess of revenue over expenditure of £1,193,000. I think everyone must see that if the island were only left to spend its own money, it would be exceedingly prosperous; and, instead of coming to this House for loans or grants in aid, there would be such a balance in the local exchequer as to reduce the too hard taxation of the inhabitants. I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he is prepared now to make any statement concerning the Convention signed between

Turkey and England yesterday a year ago. We know nothing about it, excepting for one paragraph which appeared in *The Times* on the 5th August last. What are the conditions of the Convention? The Leader of the House spoke a few days ago of a Bill to ratify that Convention, but no Bill has appeared. I should like to know what are the conditions of that Convention, and whether it will be a relief to the Imperial Treasury, or a relief to Cyprus itself. I should like to press upon the right hon. Gentleman that, whatever views he may have held upon this matter, the Cypriotes are certainly deserving of great sympathy from himself, and from everyone else, because they have been paying this large amount of money. It may be that this money is properly paid, or it may not be; but, at all events, we make them pay it according to the Convention with Turkey in 1855. According to the Convention, the interest on the guaranteed loan of 1885 was to be paid from the residue of the Egyptian tribute, and after that from the customs dues of Smyrna and Syria. I have not been able to find that any serious attempt has ever been made to get hold of these customs dues. After taking possession of the island of Cyprus in 1878, I suppose it was seen that it would be an easier way to pay the creditors of the loan out of the revenues of Cyprus. I should like to mention that the country which benefits most from our possession of Cyprus is France. Because its liabilities have been paid to the last penny, from the default of Turkey, by Great Britain, and France has had to simply ask for their money to get it, and give a receipt. It is interesting to note that while France gets with punctual regularity the payment of £41,000 of interest on the guaranteed loan, England has occasionally got off with a loss of £50,000 a year by the occupation of Cyprus; for when the finances of the island are bad we have to make grants in aid, with the result that France benefits at our expense. I hope that some day we may be able to do something substantial for the benefit of those people, who were intended to be an object lesson in the Eastern Mediterranean of the beneficence and justice of English rule.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Bir-

mingham, W.): I am obliged to all the hon. Gentlemen who have spoken for the kind appreciation which has been expressed of the efforts of the Colonial Office to improve the condition of the island, and without making any invidious claim for myself, as compared with my predecessors, I think that the English Government have some right to congratulate themselves on the immense improvements which they have carried out. Very recently, not only have the roads of the island been placed in good repair, but surveys have been made with a view to proceeding with a railway across the island. It is also intended to improve the state of the harbour at Famagusta, and, most important of all, a large experiment in irrigation is also being undertaken. I am advised by the experts that it is likely to be financially successful, and in that case we may look forward to still further improvement. The question of the taxation raised in the island has also been under consideration, and a number of changes, all to the advantage of the taxpayers, have been made. With regard to much of the produce chiefly grown by the small cultivators, we have abolished the tithe—a very irritating tax and difficult to collect; and with regard to olives and olive oil, it is hoped that it will be possible to substitute an export duty for the tithe. There are many other matters in which careful attention has been given to the wants of the islanders, and in which there has been a material improvement of their condition. I am glad to hear that they recognise the good-will of the British Government, and are grateful for what has been done. One result has been that the revenue of the island has greatly increased. Last year it amounted to no less than £210,000, which is the largest sum ever raised in the island during the British occupation, except for one abnormal year, 1891, when the harvest was exceptionally productive, and consequently the revenues went up. The expenditure has been £135,000, and the difference is, of course, accounted for by the tribute. Hon. Members have expressed the wish that the island could be relieved of this obligation. So do Her Majesty's Government; but it is not an obligation which the Government have placed on the island, it is an obligation which we took over with the island. Without adopting the very drastic suggestion of the hon. Member

opposite, which would be in defiance of our international obligations, we cannot say to the Sultan of Turkey at the present time that this tribute, which we engaged to pay, shall no longer be paid to him. But the islanders have been led by local people who are insufficiently acquainted with the real history of this matter to suppose that they have exceptional claims to relief; and these statements have been repeated so often that they begin to believe them. It is therefore necessary to go back once more to the way in which this obligation was incurred. To read some of these statements which come from Cyprus, one would suppose that the island was worse off under British rule than under the Turkish *régime*. Under the Turkish *régime* the tribute was paid just the same; but the amount of money which the Turks spent in Cyprus never exceeded £30,000; whereas we spend £135,000 a year. The fact is, the island is better off now than ever it was; there is now absolute equality between religions and classes, even-handed justice, peace and security; the people are not subject to Armenian or even Cyprian outrages, and all this constitutes a change which they are a little apt to forget. The hon. Gentleman opposite suggested that the island should be handed over to the Greeks. I have no doubt that in some respects that would appeal to the sentiments of the Grecian population in the island; but I have no reason to believe that the Mahomedans in the island, who are equally worthy of our good-will and care, would at all like any such transfer. I am not certain that even the Greeks themselves would, considering the financial disabilities under which they would immediately be placed, feel that these would be compensated for by sentimental considerations. The amount of the tribute payable by the Cypriotes to Turkey was settled by a Commission, of which Sir Robert Biddulph, who went to Constantinople for the purpose, was the head. The whole question was examined and criticised again and again. It is not the fact, as my hon. friend appears to have been informed, that the calculations for the tribute were based upon the paper currency, which, having depreciated 60 per cent., no longer represented the real value of the tribute. On the contrary, account was taken of that depreciation, and only the intrinsic value of the currency was reckoned in settling the

Mr. J. Chamberlain.

tribute. Sir Robert Biddulph was unable to convince the Turks that they should reduce their claims; and a final settlement was made by the British Government without the consent of Turkey. It was the British Government which decided that the present sum fairly and reasonably represented the annual tribute which had actually been paid by the island for five years or more previous to the British occupation. It may be alleged that Sir Robert Biddulph did badly, and that his views were wrong, and that his calculations were mistaken, but I do not think that Her Majesty's Government could listen to such representations. There is no proof of them whatever, and it is known that Sir Robert engaged in the work with every desire, as was natural, to reduce the tribute to the lowest point, because he then knew well, what has since turned out to be the fact, that if the tribute was placed at a high amount the British Government would in the long run be mulcted for a considerable proportion of it. The net result is, not only that the Cypriotes have to pay not more than they paid before, but that during the twenty years of the occupation they have been relieved of a portion of their obligation, averaging about £30,000 a year, at the expense of the British taxpayer. I need not say that the rumour to the effect that the amount of the tribute had any reference to the amount of the loan which had been hypothecated is utterly and entirely without the shadow of a shade of foundation. The fact is, that all the revenues of the island were hypothecated for the loan of 1855. No doubt the result of the hypothecation has been, I will not say a pecuniary advantage to France, for I have no doubt France would have been able to get the interest on the loan from other sources, but an immense advantage in the sense that it has relieved her from all trouble and anxiety; because France has always obtained the money by cheque from the British Government, without having to exert pressure on the Turk. My hon. friends ask whether any arrangement is likely to be made for the reduction of the tribute. I have very little to say on that point, but one thing I must say in order to prevent any false anticipations. We might be able to reduce the tribute; but if we did so, it would not benefit the Cypriotes, immediately, at any rate, but only the British taxpayer. Whatever reduction

was secured would have to be set against the British grant in aid, which was this year £30,000. Therefore, although I am anxious to see this tribute reduced, the Cypriotes are not likely for a long time to get the benefit of a reduction.

*MR. HEDDERWICK (Wick Burghs): Cannot it be capitalised and paid off profitably?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The debt might be paid off by a loan at a lower rate of interest, and there would be a saving to that extent. Efforts have been made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Foreign Office to come to some arrangement with the Sultan in regard to this loan, and some considerable progress has been made in that direction. But the negotiations are not concluded; and I cannot say at the present time that a satisfactory agreement has been obtained. But I still hope that some transactions of the kind may be arranged, though I think it necessary to warn the inhabitants of the island that in the first instance, at any rate, the British taxpayer, and not they, would benefit.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said it could not be denied that the condition of Cyprus had improved very substantially during the last two or three years under the administration of the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary. At the same time, he confessed to a certain sense of disappointment at the announcement that had just been made, that the people of the island had nothing to expect from the increase in the revenue. The right hon. Gentleman, and those who took the same view, seemed to overlook altogether the political considerations of the case. This country took Cyprus under the impression that they were getting a great political advantage, and it was boasted of as a great stroke of policy. It was then represented to the Cypriotes that they had come into the possession of a great and wealthy Empire, and that it was the intention of the English Government to maintain, as in Malta, a large number of troops there. Of course, if that policy had been pursued there would never have arisen the slightest difficulty among the Cypriotes in paying their way. But for a long time the island was completely neglected, and nothing was

done to improve the condition of the people, who were left entirely to their own resources. He fully admitted that, since the administration of the Secretary to the Colonies, a new leaf had been turned over in this regard, with the result that the revenue had immediately begun to rise. But there was a long time during which the complaints of the islanders met with no response, and they were subjected to an enormous and undue burden of taxation. He therefore thought it was ungenerous to propose, immediately there was a gleam of prosperity in Cyprus, that there should be a reduction in the grant in aid. He hoped the Colonial Secretary would come to recognise that the people of the island had at least a moral claim to a share in the increase in the revenue.

Vote agreed to.

22. "That a sum, not exceeding £36,241, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Subsidies to certain Telegraph Companies."

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: I want to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, or the Secretary to the Treasury, three questions. It has been very strongly rumoured lately that the companies subsidised in this Vote are making of themselves an alternative route to the Cape, in order to anticipate possible competition. Two of the agreements which govern these subsidies expire this year, but they have already been extended in a new form by other agreements which were made a few years ago, and which will begin to run before we have this Vote again next year. I should like also to know whether the Government can give similar information to that contained in the White Book, which has been laid before the Cape Parliament, on the subject of the working of the lines subsidised in this Vote, of the proposal for an alternative line to the Cape, and of the opinions of the Home Government as to the strategic importance of the proposed line. It is now admitted that the enormous increase of trade in South Africa in recent years has made these subsidies wholly unnecessary, and this will have a considerable

bearing, of course, on any future arrangements we have to make. I should also like to know whether the Chancellor of the Exchequer can tell us anything about the recent delays in Government messages from the Cape.

***THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EX-CHEQUER** (Sir M. HICKS-BEACH, Bristol, W.): There have been proposals under the consideration of the Government from the telegraphic companies for a new cable between this country and the Cape, touching at St. Helena and Ascension. Negotiations have also been in progress for a considerable reduction in rates. I cannot say how far the matter has approached completion. I think the time is hardly ripe for laying Papers on the subject before Parliament, but there are proposals before us, and it is quite true that considerable strategic importance is attached by the Admiralty to the proposed communication. With regard to the alleged delay in transmitting messages from the Cape, I really know nothing at all about it.

Vote agreed to.

CLASS I.

23. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £4,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 21st day of March, 1900, for Expenditure in respect of Royal Palaces and Marlborough House."

24. "That a sum, not exceeding £130,537, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Survey of the United Kingdom, and for minor services connected therewith."

***SIR CHARLES DILKE:** I raised a question on this Vote last year, which the Secretary to the Treasury said he would bring to the knowledge of the officials, viz., the extraordinary carelessness shown in regard to the names in the Ordnance Survey. These names are of great antiquarian interest, and often have important historical bearings; but even in the

Crown forests some of the official names are spelt differently. I would ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether this can be rectified.

MR. HANBURY: The right hon. Gentleman is no doubt aware that this Vote is not out of the Treasury, but out of the Board of Agriculture. I will bring the matter before my right hon. friend the President of the Board of Agriculture.

***SIR CHARLES DILKE:** The same thing happened last year—the right hon. Gentleman was present, but the President of the Board of Agriculture was not.

Vote agreed to.

25. "That a sum, not exceeding £147,641 (including a Supplementary sum of £13,000), be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Erection, Repairs, and Maintenance of Public Buildings in Ireland, for the Maintenance of certain Parks and Public Works, and for the Maintenance of Drainage Works on the River Shannon."

CLASS II.

26. "That a sum, not exceeding £6,099, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Offices of the House of Lords."

MR. DILLON: I desire to move the reduction of this Vote. This is an extremely important Vote, and I think that a fuller opportunity ought to have been given to us of discussing it, in view of the peculiar circumstances which surround it. It will be in the recollection of the House, that early this year a message was received from the Lords to the effect that it was desirable that a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament should be appointed to inquire into the salaries of the permanent staff of both Houses of Parliament. I should be out of order if I entered, as I should like to do, upon the

course of the proceedings connected with the appointment of that committee, but I may be permitted to remind the House that in spite of repeated protests, especially on the part of Scotch, Welsh, and Irish Members, who had been mainly instrumental in bringing about the appointment of that Committee—

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! I do not see how this is relevant.

MR. DILLON: I will drop that part of my observation, and direct my attention to the question immediately raised, as to whether the sum provided for the salaries and expenses of the offices of the House of Lords should be reduced. This Committee, appointed upon a motion made on the 27th of February, has only reported within the last week or fortnight. I have in my hand a copy of the Report. Some very remarkable facts, which I shall allude to in a few moments, have been brought out in that Report. But what is still more remarkable to me than the facts which have been brought out, is the absence of any reference to certain matters which I should have thought the Committee would have reported upon. There is an extraordinary difference between the House of Lords and the House of Commons in the amount of the officers' salaries, which must have certainly come under the cognisance of the Committee, and in reference to which I should like to put a question to the Secretary to the Treasury, who was a member of the Committee, viz., whether the question was considered of whether at least a portion of the salary of the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod might not have been saved by the amalgamation of the office with that of Sergeant-at-Arms in the House of Lords.

MR. HANBURY: That question was ruled to be out of order by the Chairman.

MR. DILLON: That is an extraordinary condition of things. In 1869-70, when the discussions on this subject commenced, there were twenty-seven clerks in the House of Lords, drawing salaries to the amount of £16,770 a year. In 1889-90 the number of clerks was nineteen, and the amount £12,357; and in 1899

there is a further reduction to seventeen clerks, and the amount is now £10,730. So that in the twenty years since these annual discussions commenced a saving has been effected of ten clerks, the number having been reduced from twenty-seven to seventeen, and there has been a reduction in the total amount of the salaries from £16,770 down to £10,730, and thus a saving of £6,000 has been effected. All this has been achieved in face of the fact that if there has been any change in the amount of business it has been in the direction of an increase. This result is due to the industry and perseverance of those hon. Members who have engaged in these annual discussions, and it will act as a very great encouragement to us to persevere in this work, because, although much has been done, I am by no means certain that as much has been done as ought to be done. I do not intend to debate this question in all its bearings on the present occasion, but I desire to appeal to the right hon. Gentleman to put this Vote down earlier next session in order that it may be fully and fairly discussed. I desire very briefly to draw attention to one or two other points. It will be within the memory of everybody in this House that one of the points to which we have repeatedly drawn attention was the fact that the Clerk of Parliaments in the other House received £3,000 a year, while the Chief Clerk of the House of Commons only received £2,500. This reduction was strenuously resisted at first, but now the salary of the Clerk of Parliaments has been reduced to the same figure as that of the Clerk of this House. I have a strong opinion that in these matters the salary ought to bear some relationship to the amount and the quality of the work done. No doubt if that principle was carried out a great reform would take place amongst Her Majesty's Ministers as well as amongst the clerks in the House of Lords. I think all public offices which touch the honour of the nation and which set an example to the nation should be above criticism. I have never consciously adopted or supported the doctrine which, in my judgment, is the misfortune of America, and that is paying public men a grossly insufficient salary for public services; on the contrary, I believe it to be the cheapest plan, in the long run, to pay generous—and what might be supposed to be excessive—salaries, because you want to pick and

choose from the best men in the country, and it is idle to expect that you can attract such men unless you give splendid salaries. But while the salary of the Clerk of Parliaments has been brought down to the same level as the salary of the Chief Clerk in this House, everyone will admit that the work of the Clerk of Parliaments is ridiculously small compared with the work of the Chief Clerk of this House. It is an old superstition which induced the House of Lords to resist with all its strength any attempt to level down the salary of the Clerk of Parliaments to the same level as that of the Clerk in this House, and it is a remnant of that old superstition which induces them now to hold out for the same salary. Under the present system a man who serves a higher assembly gets the same pay for about one-third the amount of work. I will give as an instance the case of the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, and I think we all know what his duties are. Nobody will accuse me of introducing any personal considerations, and no human being in debating these matters dreams of ever injuring the vested interest of any individual. What I am criticising is simply the system. Now what is the present state of affairs? The Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, when these Debates first commenced, had £2,000 a year and a house. That was a ridiculous and grotesque state

of things, and yet it was defended with almost desperation, and when we criticised this state of things we were looked upon as little short of rebels against the constitution of this country, and we were told that the House of Lords was, like the island of Cyprus, a profitable institution to the country, which gave to the Treasury more than they got back, as if there was any force in that argument. In 1888, when these discussions commenced, the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod had £2,000 a year and a house, but now his salary is £1,000 a year and no house. I think everyone will admit that even £1,000 a year for his functions is preposterous, and my contention is that duties of this kind could be discharged by the Serjeant-at-Arms, and that would effect a very substantial saving. I think that is a matter which ought to be investigated. I had intended to move a reduction of this Vote, but I think I shall better express my feelings by voting against it, and as no opportunity has been given us to adequately discuss this important matter at this stage I hope the right hon. Gentleman will give us a fair opportunity next session.

Motion made, and Question put, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

The House divided:—Ayes, 104; Noes, 41. (Division List, No. 360.)

AYES.

Arnold, Alfred
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Man.)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Barnes, Frederick Gorell
Barton, Dunbar Plunket
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Brassey, Albert
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin)
Carlike, William Walter
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worcester)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.

Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cook, Fred. Lucas (Lambeth)
Cooke, C. W. R. (Hereford)
Curzon, Viscount
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-Drucker, A.
Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Flower, Ernest
Galloway, William Johnson
Gedge, Sydney
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Gilliat, John Saunders
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbert J.
Goldsworthy, Major-General
Gordon, Hon. John Edward
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. Geo.'s)
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Gull, Sir Cameron
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. Wm.

Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Lawrence, Sir E. Durning (Corn)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
Lea, Sir Thomas (London)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn (Swansea)
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Liverpool)
Maclure, Sir John William
McArthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Malcolm, Ian
Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
Monk, Charles James
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Pierpoint, Robert
Purvis, Robert

Mr. Dillon.

Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrene)
 Savory, Sir Joseph
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)

Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley Lord (Lancs.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Strauss, Arthur
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Valentia, Viscount

Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Williams, Jos. Powell (Birm.)
 Wyndham, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Austin, M. (Limerick, W.)
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Robert (Durham)
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
 Curran, Thomas (Sligo, S.)
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Gourley, Sir Edward T.
 Griffith, Ellis J.

Hayne, Rt. Hon. C. Seale-
 Healy, Timothy M. (N. Louth)
 Hedderwick, Thomas C. H.
 Hogan, James Francis
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cumb'land)
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Moss, Samuel
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 Pickers-gill, Edward Hare
 Pirie, Duncan V.

Randell, David
 Steadman, William Charles
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Wallace Robert
 Walton, John L. (Leeds, S.)
 Whiteley, George (Stockport)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, John C. (Notts.)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
 Wilson, Jos. H. (Middlesbrough)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Dillon and Mr. Kil-
 bride.

27. "That a sum, not exceeding £15,269, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses in the Offices of the House of Commons."

28. "That a sum, not exceeding £59,300, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses in the Department of Her Majesty's Treasury and Subordinate Departments."

29. "That a sum, not exceeding £96,868, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department and Subordinate Offices."

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: On a former occasion when this Vote was taken we had a full Debate on the Factory and Workshops Department, but we had no Debate at all upon anything else which is included in the Home Office Vote. I should like to draw attention to the insufficiency of the inspectorate in the Mines Department. I cannot put the matter better than it is put in a letter by

a working miner in Scotland, who seems to have made himself thoroughly acquainted with the present state of things, and his view confirms what I hear from my own constituency and from other parts of the country. One of the strong points of the administration of the Secretary of State for the Home Department is that he has succeeded in making a considerable increase in the number of factory and workshop inspectors. I may point out that the work of the mining inspectors has been heavily increased by the inspection of quarries, which has been recently thrown upon them. I will now read a few lines from this working miner's letter which puts the case in a nutshell. He says:

"What concerns us most is the fact that we rarely see the mine inspectors only when an accident happens. No complete inspection of a pit is ever made, and the fact is that no new inspectors have been appointed for Scotland since 1892, although the inspectors now have to look after the quarries as well as to attend all accident inquiries. No time is allowed for the proper inspection of collieries, and the inspectors only visit them once a year. Would you ask the Secretary of State to appoint more inspectors? The factory inspectors have done a great deal to prevent accidents by seeing that the Acts were carried out, and I think more mine inspectors would have the same effect."

I think that letter puts the whole question in a nutshell, and I very much doubt whether the Secretary of State will deny the statements made in that letter. All I ask is that he should feel that the Committee will support him in any demand he should make upon the Treasury for the increase of the mines inspectorate. With regard to the Vote gener-

ally, the grounds upon which we took exception to this Vote on a former occasion have not been weakened in the least degree by the Home Secretary's explanation. We complained most bitterly, and we shall complain again next session, of the extraordinary delay in the issuing of that most valuable document, the Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops. We always used to get that Report in the month of May, but it has recently been postponed till July, and this year till December, and we see no special reason for that delay.

*MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield): I avail myself of the opportunity afforded by this Vote of expressing my disappointment at the failure of the Home Secretary to introduce a measure relating to burial law reform, which the right hon. Gentleman told us a considerable time ago had actually been prepared. I would remind the House that had the right hon. Gentleman introduced the Bill, he would have done so under circumstances of a highly favourable character, inasmuch as the Committee appointed last session and the session before, at the instance of the Government, not only came to a unanimous conclusion that a Bill should be introduced consolidating and amending the burial laws, but they were also agreed with singular unanimity as regards the particular changes which ought to be made. Therefore, the right hon. Gentleman had the advantage of knowing that this measure would not have been of a highly contentious character, and would have received support on this side of the House as well as on the opposite side. No explanation has been vouchsafed as to the failure to introduce the measure, and I hope we may receive from the right hon. Gentleman an assurance that it will be introduced early next session. He knows, as well as I do, that the matter is pressing, for every year fresh churchyards are being closed and new cemeteries are being opened, and as long as the law remains in its present condition there will be bitter contention with regard to matters which should be wholly free from anything of so painful a character. I hope I shall receive from the right hon. Gentleman an assurance which will allay the uneasiness which prevails out of doors, and which will also make it unnecessary to adopt steps

Sir Charles Dilke.

which may otherwise become incumbent upon those who desire to see an alteration in the law.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON (Middlesbrough): I desire to again make an appeal to the right hon. Gentleman the Home Secretary in reference to the case of two seamen, named William Jones and John Lynch, who were sentenced in 1897 to seven years' penal servitude for an offence for which, if they had been proved to be absolutely guilty without any doubt, I venture to say six weeks would have been a very severe sentence. It will be necessary for me just to go through the facts of the case very briefly. In 1897 there was a seamen's strike in the port of Cardiff. A number of men were congregated near a ship, and a dispute took place with regard to the amount of charges that three of these men had signed on board ship. After they had left the ship one of the three men used a knife, with the result that one of the men got two or three cuts on the head, given to him by some person with a piece of wire rope. The two men, Jones and Lynch, were arrested for this offence. They were committed to the assizes, where the judge sentenced them to seven years' penal servitude. In the case of John Lynch, there were very grave doubts indeed as to whether the man was guilty. There were only two witnesses in a position to swear that Lynch was present; but some nine or ten other witnesses swore on oath that at the time this fight took place Lynch was nowhere near the spot where the fight occurred; and yet, in spite of that, he was convicted. With regard to the case of Jones, judging from the evidence given, he was near the spot, and the policeman, who was the principal witness against Jones, swore that he found a large piece of wire rope in his pocket. This policeman was afterwards charged with perjury, and he was tried at the Cardiff Assizes, where he was acquitted. A number of witnesses, who were called in defence of the two men, were very clear on the point. They were perfectly independent witnesses, and were not connected with the dispute in any way. All these witnesses testified on oath that the policeman, who was the principal witness against Jones, had sworn falsely about this piece of wire rope; and another policeman swore that he found this wire rope in a

field, and handed it over to a police constable. I think that point was made very clear at the trial in Cardiff; but, nevertheless, those men had to go back to finish their sentences. Since then the sentences have been reduced, and three years have been taken off, which shows that the judge was very extravagant in his sentences, and did not exercise that discretion which he ought to have shown.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON: No doubt it is out of order to discuss the sentences passed by judges, but there are grave doubts indeed as to the guilt of these men. The man Lynch had received very serious injuries to both his legs, and had been very badly scalded, and I was present with this man at the shipping office at Penarth waiting to interview the second engineer of the vessel on which he had been scalded. I am thoroughly convinced that in the case of Lynch he is an innocent man suffering an unjust sentence. Admitting that the men were guilty without a shadow of doubt, I venture to say that the sentences were the most severe that have ever been passed on any men in this country, because the injuries which the man complained of having received did not incapacitate him from following his work. The fight occurred about one o'clock in the afternoon, and the injured man was doing his work next morning, and he would have gone on a voyage had not a policeman taken him on shore to prosecute him. That was in itself evidence that no serious injury was inflicted upon this man, and yet, in spite of that, this terrible sentence was inflicted.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is not in order in commenting upon the conduct of a judge in passing a particular sentence.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON: I only wanted to call attention to this very severe sentence. The Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress made an appeal to the right hon. Gentleman to reduce the sentence, but he declined to do so, and I am again compelled to take this opportunity of appealing to the right hon. Gentleman. These men have now suffered two years and two months of this sentence, and I do not think any harm would be

done if, as a matter of mercy, the remainder of the sentence was remitted. Jones is an American citizen, with a wife and child dependent upon him living in the United States, and I understand that his people do not know his whereabouts. Jones does not care to have the fact sent to his wife that he is in prison, and at the present time she does not know where he is. Taking that into consideration I hope the right hon. Gentleman will seriously consider whether he cannot now liberate these men. With regard to the man Lynch, whom I have said all through is an innocent man, he is well advanced in years, and probably when he is liberated from prison he will not be able to follow his employment as a fireman on board ship. As a matter of mercy, seeing that there is some doubt about the guilt of these men, I hope the right hon. Gentleman will liberate them.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY, Lancashire, Blackpool): I strongly deprecate the bringing forward of criminal cases for review before this House, because it is quite impossible, however great may be my own shortcomings, that this House can be a competent judge in such matters. Therefore I decline to follow the hon. Gentleman in some of the details which he has put before the House. When this case was first brought to my notice I gave it careful and anxious consideration, and as the result of that consideration I was able to advise Her Majesty to remit three years of the sentence which had been imposed by the judge who tried the case. I did my best to take a lenient view, and I respectfully decline to go any further in that direction. I have done a great deal in the direction which the hon. Member wishes, and I think he ought not to press me to go further. With regard to the question of the Burial Laws, my hon. friend knows perfectly well that I was as anxious as he and his friends are to bring forward a measure which, as the hon. Member opposite has said, has been drawn mainly upon the lines of the recommendations of the Select Committee. I thought this was a good opportunity which might have been taken of settling some of the difficult questions connected with this subject; but, unfortunately, time has been against me, and it did not appear to the Government a desirable thing to introduce a Bill of

that character which, under the pressure of other business, it seemed absolutely impossible to pass into law. I cannot give the hon. Gentleman any definite assurance or promise, but it will be a disappointment to myself if I do not take an opportunity of presenting the Bill to Parliament next session, which I have already drafted. As to the question of the insufficiency of the number of inspectors of mines, I have received no such complaint as the right hon. Baronet alludes to. The right hon. Gentleman seems to think that the Government inspectors ought to take charge of these mines, but that is not our idea of the duty of a Government inspector. I think it is extremely desirable that the inspectors should be fully cognisant of all that is going on in their district, and that they should not appear only in cases of lamentable accidents. They should upon all occasions know exactly what is going on and be able to give advice when their advice is sought. I can only say that if any representations are made to me to increase the number of inspectors, I shall be perfectly ready to consider them. This is a question which I have addressed more than once to the inspectors of mines, and I have received answers which are not altogether in support of the view of the right hon. Gentleman. The right hon. Baronet has also alluded to another subject which he brought forward when this Vote was before the Committee of Supply. In regard to the delay in issuing the Report of the Inspector of Factories, I am not prepared to give a definite undertaking as to when the Report will be produced, but I will take note of the fact that there is an evident feeling in the House that the earliest possible information should be given on these matters, although I do not think it will be possible early in the session to present an exhaustive and full *resume* and criticism of the various Reports given by the Chief Inspector in the same volume. I think it will be possible to present, at an early period of the session, the Reports of the various inspectors. At all events, I have got the consent of the Treasury to an increase of the staff of clerks in the Factories Department, and with regard to the bringing out of these Reports, I hope with this increased strength I may be able, to some extent, to satisfy the demands of the right hon. Gentleman.

Sir M. White Ridley.

Motion made, and Question put, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

The House proceeded to a Division, and Mr. Speaker stated that he thought the Ayes had it; and on his decision being challenged, it appeared to him that the Division was frivolously claimed, and he accordingly directed the Noes to stand up in their places, and seven Members having stood up, Mr. Speaker declared that the Ayes had it.

Resolution agreed to.

30. "That a sum, not exceeding £49,482, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs."

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES (Durham, N.W.): I desire to avail myself of this opportunity to call attention to the failure of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to make a declaration to his Imperial Majesty the Czar in respect of the abrogation of the change which has been recently affected in the constitution of Finland. I am sensible of the extreme difficulty of dealing with what seems to savour of intervention in the internal affairs of another empire, although there have been numerous precedents for such a thing, and representations have been effectively made in this respect, even when there was no intention of forcing them by armed intervention. I will promise to deal with this matter very shortly, because it is not a convenient period of the session to debate a question of such magnitude, but my justification for bringing it forward now is the total absence of previous opportunities. There are no treaty obligations on the part of Great Britain in relation to Finland, but there are treaty obligations in relation to that country of which Finland prior to the year 1808 was an integral part; and when the arrangement of 1808 was entered into it was understood that there was a recognition of the fact that the constitution of Finland as it existed in the time of its connection with Sweden was to be maintained. That constitution has been maintained ever

since 1808 up to the present year, and upon the accession of each Czar to the throne this has been confirmed by a constitutional declaration. The constitution of Sweden is remarkable for the fact that almost free autonomy has been enjoyed by the people of Finland. They have their own legislature consisting of a House which represents the four States of the realm, and they have a Cabinet in many respects something of the nature of a Second Chamber. The Cabinet is composed of persons constitutionally selected, for the most part by the Imperial Government. In dealing with this matter I cannot help making a passing reference to a fact which seems to my mind to accentuate the gravity of this subject—I allude to the Peace Conference, the object of which is to secure the reduction of armaments. Immediately after the issue of the famous manifesto in which the Czar intimated his desire to reduce armaments, he introduced into the Diet of Finland a law by which the standing territorial army of the Duchy of Finland—which under no circumstances short of actual war was to be required to pass beyond the boundaries of Finland—was to be increased from 5,000 soldiers on the active list to about 36,000 men; and the reserve, which should be somewhere about 35,000 or 36,000 men, was to be increased with those on the active list to such an extent as to make it a force of 100,000 soldiers. The immunity which the army of Finland enjoyed from serving in any other parts of the Empire was also removed, and various other disabilities which I will not particularise now were imposed upon the people of Finland. The result of this measure was that a strong feeling of indignation was aroused among the people of Finland against serving in outside territories, and their opposition led to the famous rescript of February last, in which the Czar declared that henceforth it would lie within his sole discretion to decide whether or not any law which he chose to promulgate was one which should be applicable to the Duchy of Finland, and if he came to the conclusion that such a law affected those subjects of his outside the Duchy of Finland, then, whatever might be the attitude of the House of Representatives of Finland, and whatever might be the attitude of the States, that law should *ipso facto* come into force. That law was a direct infringement and violation of the

constitution of Finland, and undoubtedly amounted to an abrogation of that constitution. I need not point out to the right hon. Gentleman the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that the passage of that law, and the issuing of that rescript, has produced a most profound exasperation not merely in Finland, but throughout the Scandinavian Peninsula. There is not only this feeling of exasperation, but there is a feeling that the increase of the army of the Czar by practically 100,000 upon the frontier of Scandinavia constitutes a menace to the peace of those regions and to European peace, because, as the right hon. Gentleman no doubt fully recognises, the trend of the policy of Russian Czars has been to seek to appropriate by force portions of what geographically is Scandinavian territory. I will not dilate upon the actual danger this would be to the peace and security of Europe, but that feeling of exasperation has found its echo in the general sympathy which has been extended to the people of Finland by all the civilised countries of Europe, and representations have been made to the Czar from various quarters to this effect. I feel the disadvantage under which I labour in appealing to the right hon. Gentleman upon a question of this kind, but at the same time I cannot help reflecting that it is scarcely in consonance with the best traditions of statesmanship in this country that the people of a great free State should quietly regard with indifference—and I might almost say with contempt—the extinction of the liberties of a people united to us by so many common ties.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I rise to order. I wish to ask you, Sir, whether it is consistent with the practice of the House that an hon. Member should initiate an elaborate discussion on the Foreign Office Vote in matters over which the Foreign Office has no control?

*MR. SPEAKER: Up to the present I have not found in the hon. Member's remarks anything that is relevant to the Vote before the House. I was waiting to see whether he was going to put himself in order by referring the same action on the part of the Government.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES: Inasmuch as I have practically reached the close of

my remarks, the right hon. Gentleman's intervention is somewhat inopportune. On the point of order, I may say that I am not aware, subject to your ruling, that it is in any sense contrary to order for any Member of this House to challenge the conduct of a responsible Minister of the Crown for failure to intervene—I mean friendly intervention—in matters of this character, and those who may challenge that statement will find a precedent in the case of Poland in 1863, when a similar protest was made. Without further trespassing upon the time of the House, I will ask the right hon. Gentleman the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Government have made any representations to the Czar of Russia with respect to the increase of the Army in Finland, and whether any communications have been received from the Russian Government in respect thereto.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): I should not have risen at all had it not been for the questions put to me by the hon. Member opposite, because I consider that the whole scope of this discussion which the hon. Member seeks to raise is absolutely beyond the purview of the Foreign Office Vote. The hon. Member has brought forward a variety of questions which may be of great importance, but, as far as the British Parliament is concerned, we have nothing at all to do with them. The hon. Member asks whether any representations have been made to the Russian Government in regard to the change in the constitution of Finland. Undoubtedly no representations of the kind have been made, because, as a Government, we have no concern whatever with these matters, nor have we any *locus standi* to make any recommendations. No communications on the subject have passed between us and the Government of the Czar, and we have no intention of addressing any such communications to the Russian Government. I would remind the House that, with regard to this matter, as a country, we have nothing whatever to do with an improvement in the state of affairs in Finland. We have given no guarantee to Finland, we are not by treaty involved in the affairs of Finland, and we are not prepared to undertake to interfere in the affairs of that country. I do not think that such a discussion on the part of an

Mr. Atherley-Jones.

assembly which has no concern in the matter is useful for the purpose which the hon. and learned Gentleman has in view, nor do I think its continuance will be in accordance with the traditions of the British House of Parliament.

SIR CHARLES DILKE: I should like to put a question to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I moved a reduction of the Foreign Office Vote on the first occasion on which it came before the House. In the latter part of that Debate the Chancellor of the Exchequer made a reply on the specific question on which a reduction was moved, namely, the claim against the Government of France in connection with the Waima affair. I should like to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether any progress has been made in this matter. Considering that it occurred in 1893, it ought not to be allowed to drag on until next session.

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH: I am afraid I am unable to add anything to what has been said by the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

Vote agreed to.

31. "That a sum, not exceeding £64,070, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of certain Services transferred from the Mercantile Marine Fund."

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON: I think I will be in order on this Vote in bringing to the notice of the House a question with reference to Lascar seamen. For some considerable time I have been asking the President of the Board of Trade to enforce the law with regard to the accommodation provided for seamen on board ship.

*MR. SPEAKER: Perhaps the hon. Member will satisfy me as to how this subject is connected with the Mercantile Marine Fund.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON: Certain surveyors are paid out of this fund to survey ships.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is complaining, not of the conduct of the surveyors, but of the conduct of the Minister who has charge of these matters.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON : It is part of the duty of the surveyors of the Board of Trade to see that ships provide accommodation for seamen.

*MR. SPEAKER : The mode of performing that duty is regulated by the Board of Trade, and the hon. Member cannot bring it forward on this Vote.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON : Then I give notice that I will bring it forward on Monday.

Vote agreed to.

32. "That a sum, not exceeding £6, be granted to Her Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for meeting the Deficiency of Income from Fees, &c., for the requirements of the Board of Trade, under the Bankruptcy Acts, 1883 and 1890, and the Companies (Winding-up) Act, 1890."

33. "That a sum, not exceeding £28,919, be granted to Her Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Board of Agriculture, and to pay certain Grants in Aid."

*MR. CHANNING : I do not wish to challenge this Vote to-day on Report, as I took a Division upon it last night, but I desire to put a question to the President of the Board of Agriculture on a matter which has been repeatedly brought before the House. I wish to enter my protest against the policy adopted by the President of the Board of Agriculture with regard to the essential point of the recommendations of the Tuberculosis Commission. The reply of the right hon. Gentleman yesterday to a question on the subject was apparently that until the whole of the agricultural community were agreed in demanding that the special recommendations of that Commission should be carried out he saw no reason for giving effect to them. This question is of very great importance in view of the health of the whole community, as well as in the interests of agriculture, and I think it is a very serious step on the part of the right hon. Gentleman to make his decision on this question dependent on the demands of the landowners and farmers whose immediate

interests might be affected by carrying out the policy suggested by the Commission, and also consequently may take short-sighted views. I am most grateful to the right hon. Gentleman for his promise to consider the question of distributing literature in order to bring before the agriculturists of this country the results obtained in other countries by the adoption of scientific methods for stamping out this disease. But I must enter my protest against his repeated statements that the action of his Department is to be based, not on the opinion of men of science, but on the wishes of the agriculturists of this country. We have not only the opinion of the Royal Commission, the opinion of the most eminent veterinary surgeons in the country, and the opinion of the whole of the greatest medical authorities, unanimously demanding this action. We have a right to demand that the Board of Agriculture should not take a narrow and limited view of the subject, and should not wait until a number of agriculturists pronounce an opinion upon it. As a practical justification for insisting on this question, I may point out that the Estimates for the present year show a decrease of £2,500 in connection with the Diseases of Animals Act. That would be about half the sum required for initiating the Danish system of stamping out tuberculosis in this country, and I think we have a right to complain of the lack of sympathy with scientific methods which is displayed by the right hon. Gentleman on the subject.

MR. LEWIS : There is one question which I have been requested to raise on this Vote by some of my constituents, who feel very strongly indeed the restrictions with regard to the removal of swine. During the last five years £724,000 has been sanctioned by this House for this purpose, and the question I should like to ask is whether the country has had anything like an adequate return for that enormous sum. My own impression is that it has had very small effect, but perhaps the right hon. Gentleman will be able to enlighten the House on the matter. All I know is that in the districts with which I am best acquainted the restrictions are as severely felt as ever. Apparently no progress has been made towards the extermination of the disease, and the hardship on the farmers and small cottagers has been very great. Another difficulty arising from the matter

is the obtaining of licences for the removal of swine. When I brought this question before the House on a previous occasion the right hon. Gentleman said, I have no doubt quite correctly, that magistrates will not convict in cases of this kind. The magistrates know all the local circumstances, and the hardship which these regulations inflict; but whether they do their duty or not, it is evident that these swine Orders are very difficult to enforce, and unless they can be enforced with greater strictness, I would ask whether the immense sum of money spent on them may not just as well have been cast into the Thames. I am not laying responsibility on the right hon. Gentleman, because the House, by its own action, has imposed on the Board of Agriculture the duty of maintaining these restrictions and of spending this money; but I think the right hon. Gentleman will be responsible so far as the future is concerned, because we look to him for guidance in this respect; and I should like to know whether, in his opinion, it would not be better to sweep away these restrictions altogether, rather than that they should be inadequately enforced, as they are at present. The result does not appear to me to be commensurate with the enormous amount of money which has been spent and with the great hardship which has been inflicted on farmers and cottagers. The right hon. Gentleman will, I am sure, understand my action. I do not approach the question in a spirit hostile to himself; I am sure he has done his very best to carry out these swine Orders with the least possible hardship, but I do ask him whether the time has not now come when these restrictions should be more severely enforced or swept away altogether. I would ask the right hon. Gentleman to take this question into his very serious consideration, and to give the House some guidance which would enable it to arrive at a more satisfactory state of affairs one way or the other than exists at present.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. LONG, Liverpool, West Derby): The two speeches to which we have just listened were very interesting. The hon. Member for East Northamptonshire started this Debate by suggesting that it was my duty, as the head of the Department, to stamp out

Mr. Lewis.

the disease of tuberculosis in animals. There is no necessity for the Department to act when the evidence we get from practical people shows that they can get tuberculin cheaply and readily. There is no tittle of evidence to show that the supply from the Veterinary College is not excellent and perfectly suitable to the work carried out by the veterinary surgeons. The hon. Gentleman talks about the disease having been stamped out abroad. I am not going to detain the House now, but I entirely dispute the assertion that Denmark has succeeded in stamping out this disease. Cattle exported from Denmark, when tested by the tuberculin test, show practically the same tendency to tuberculosis as other cattle, and there is no evidence to show that the adoption of these methods in Denmark has led to the extermination of the disease. In this country public opinion has been aroused, and meetings have been held, to call attention to the desirability of preventing the spread of tubercular disease from animals to human beings. In the present state of the discovery of tuberculin I absolutely decline to make myself responsible for any attempt to enforce on the stock-owners in this country a system for eradicating tuberculosis, for which, undoubtedly, a great deal is to be said, but about which I am confident there is still a great deal to be learned. So far as the supply of tuberculin and the work of the veterinary surgeons are concerned, I believe there is very little room for improvement at the present time. That being so, I am not prepared to offer tuberculin which is not asked for, or to suggest that we should pay the fees of veterinary surgeons, a request which has not been made in this House. It is better to let the work proceed as it is proceeding now, and not force upon the people a system which, if it were very general, would involve very great inconvenience and possibly loss. With regard to the swine fever regulations, the hon. Member for the Flint Boroughs called attention to the very heavy expenditure incurred in connection with them. He suggested that these regulations should be more severely enforced or swept away altogether. It is not easy, however, to reduce the expenditure, because pressure is always put on the Department to pay generously and even lavishly for animals slaughtered in the public interest. It is no doubt desirable that such animals

should be paid for at their full market value, otherwise it is quite evident that we cannot carry with us the people whose co-operation is necessary to make the operation of the regulations successful. We have sought to lessen the expenditure by reducing the number of animals condemned to be slaughtered and by carrying out in a larger degree the policy of isolation, and I hope that by the adoption of those means we shall not in any way diminish the success of our operations, while at the same time they will very sensibly diminish the cost. I do not think that we can impose more severe restrictions than exist at present. The inconvenience is now as great as it possibly can be, and no doubt to the small owner the loss of money and the disturbance of business are very severe indeed, and no one regrets it more than I do. But the House must recognise there is no middle course in dealing with this disease. It can only be stamped out successfully by the imposition of carefully arranged but rigorously enforced and sufficiently strict regulations. That has been our policy, and the hon. Gentleman will find that we have been more successful than he is inclined to give us credit for. If he will look up the statistics he will find that swine fever has decreased by nearly one half. But we have not yet succeeded in entirely clearing it out of the country. Still I am hopeful that we will meet with even greater success, as recent figures show a decided improvement. Twelve months ago I was quite hopeful that we had succeeded in stamping the disease out; but it broke out again. However, it is now showing signs of decrease. I do not admit that the money has been wasted. The loss to owners and consumers would have been greater if the disease had been allowed to run riot throughout the length and breadth of the land. I do not think there is any other point to which I need refer. I can assure the hon. Gentleman that I accept his remarks in the spirit in which he made them. I fully understand that he made them with a desire, if possible, to limit the area of the disease, and secure a clean bill of health for the country.

Vote agreed to.

34. "That a sum, not exceeding £132,732, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the

31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Local Government Board."

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) said that the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Local Government Board, when referring on a previous occasion to the Sheffield Scattered Homes, was reported by *The Times* to have said that "the Local Government Board were always willing to give a full and fair trial to the Scattered Homes, but he could say that the reports received from Sheffield with regard to them were not encouraging." In the official Report they found words even stronger, for there he was made to say, "In regard to Sheffield we have some very unsatisfactory Reports indeed." It was very natural that the Sheffield guardians should feel rather startled by those strong terms of indignation, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to give some explanation of them, if correctly reported. When opening the Scattered Homes in Sheffield he had been particularly struck with the success of the guardians in perfecting that beneficent system, and pleased with the appearance of health, contentment, and general good condition presented by the children. A Report made in 1896 pointed out certain directions in which the scheme might be improved, but he could not understand why, after the system had been in operation in Sheffield for so long with such success, the words which had been attributed to the right hon. Gentleman should have been used. If there were any complaints with regard to the system, they should be ventilated in the House, and the Sheffield Guardians would be glad of any information which would enable them to make the system more perfect. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to tell the House how far the reports of his previous speech were inaccurate, and he felt perfectly certain that the right hon. Gentleman would be able to water down all condemnations of a system which, if carried out generally, would go very far to improve the condition of the poor children of the State, by eradicating every indication of poor law administration, and enabling them to grow up with self-respect and confidence and independence.

MR. MADDISON (Sheffield, Brightside), as a Sheffield man, deprecated the

statements which had been reported as having been made by the right hon. Gentleman. They had caused great annoyance to the Sheffield Guardians, who had approached him (Mr. Maddison) to raise the question on the Appropriation Bill. When, however, he found so well-informed a gentleman as the hon. Gentleman who preceded him was going to raise it, he gladly left the matter to him. His object in rising now was to enable the right hon. Gentleman to inform the House as to what he did say on the former occasion. The Sheffield Guardians had inaugurated a new departure in poor law administration, and nobody could deny, whether they agreed with the scheme or not, that the guardians had thrown themselves heartily into the scheme and had worked very hard to make it a success. There were always difficulties in the way of reforming the poor laws, but these gentlemen had succeeded in reforming them, and the consensus of opinion in Sheffield was that the money which had been spent by the guardians on these Scattered Homes was well spent. He did not see that the Report of 1896 would justify the somewhat harsh words the right hon. Gentleman had used, because, although many little defects were pointed out—and minor defects were always existent in the experimental stages of any great scheme—the Report on the whole was favourable to the scheme. In conclusion, he asked the right hon. Gentleman to kindly tell the House what his views were upon the Scattered Homes, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman's statement would be such as to encourage, and not discourage, the Sheffield Board of Guardians in the great work which they had undertaken.

MR. CHAPLIN wished to say, and he said it with perfect frankness, that if on a former occasion he said anything which had caused offence to the Sheffield Guardians he unreservedly withdrew it. Nothing of the kind was intended on his part, although it might be possible that, speaking as he did on the spur of the moment and entirely from memory, and having a recollection of some reports upon the question, he might have said—he could not charge his memory at this moment, as he had been invited to do by the hon. Member opposite, with the exact words he used on that occasion—something to the effect referred to. But if he

Mr. Maddison.

had said anything offensive or injurious to the Sheffield Guardians, he entirely withdrew it. He thought it might be that he was referring to the Report to which the hon. Member had referred, in which it was stated that some improvements might be effected, and he thought he said that there had been Reports which were not so satisfactory as they might have been; but he was speaking entirely from memory and without seeing the Reports for many months; and now with the knowledge that he had since acquired and the researches that he had made into the subject, he could only say that he was in all probability entirely misled. He said that now, and he had been in correspondence with the Sheffield Board of Guardians upon the subject and had referred them to statements which he had previously made in the House of Commons, where he had referred to them as the pioneers of a movement which, in his opinion, ought to be encouraged. If he had known that his hon. friend had visited these places himself, or had been reminded of it in the Debate, he should certainly never have dreamed of passing any reflection upon them. He did not think there was anything more that he could say on this point except to express his regret that, in speaking as he did from memory, he said anything hurtful or offensive to the Sheffield Board of Guardians upon this matter.

MR. H. J. WILSON (Yorkshire, W.R., Holmfirth) as a Sheffield man thanked the right hon. Gentleman for his kind, friendly, and frank expressions, which would remove a misrepresentation that had caused great dissatisfaction in Sheffield.

Vote agreed to.

35. "That a sum, not exceeding £13,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for Her Majesty's Foreign and other Secret Services."

36. "That a sum, not exceeding £16,169, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Fishery Board in Scotland and for Grants in Aid of Piers or Quays."

37. "That a sum, not exceeding £8,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Local Government Board for Scotland, and for Expenses under the Vaccination Act, Infectious Disease Notification Act, Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889, Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894, Public Health (Scotland) Act, and Poor Law (Scotland) Act."

38. "That a sum, not exceeding £28,782, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Offices of the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant in Dublin and London, and subordinate Departments."

39. "That a sum, not exceeding £27,479, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Local Government Board in Ireland."

CLASS III.

40. "That a sum, not exceeding £60,806, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Lord Advocate's Department, and other Law Charges, and the Salaries and Expenses of the Courts of Law and Justice in Scotland."

41. "That a sum, not exceeding £29,565, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Offices in Her Majesty's General Register House, Edinburgh."

42. "That a sum, not exceeding £3,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Expenses of the Establishment of the Crofters' Commission."

43. "That a sum, not exceeding £53,180, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Expenses of the Prison Commissioners for Scotland, and of the Prisons under their control, including the Maintenance of Criminal Lunatics and the Preparation of Judicial Statistics."

44. "That a sum, not exceeding £71,777, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for such of the Salaries and Expenses of the Supreme Court of Judicature and of certain other Legal Departments in Ireland as are not charged on the Consolidated Fund."

45. "That a sum, not exceeding £84,484, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of the Irish Land Commission."

46. "That a sum, not exceeding £75,675, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries, Allowances, Expenses, and Pensions of various County Court Officers, of Commissioners, and of Magistrates in Ireland, and the Expenses of Revision."

47. "That a sum, not exceeding £63,316, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Commissioner of Police, the Police Courts, and the Metropolitan Police Establishment of Dublin."

48. "That a sum, not exceeding £750,900, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Expenses of the Royal Irish Constabulary."

49. "That a sum, not exceeding £69,096, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray

the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Expenses of the General Prisons Board in Ireland, and of the Prisons under their control, and of the Registration of Habitual Criminals."

50. "That a sum, not exceeding £54,669, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Expenses of Reformatory and Industrial Schools in Ireland."

51. "That a sum, not exceeding £4,044, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the Maintenance of Criminal Lunatics in the Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum, Ireland."

CLASS VI.

52. "That a sum, not exceeding £7,497, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for Hospitals and Infirmarys, and certain Miscellaneous, Charitable, and other Allowances in Ireland, including sundry Grants in Aid."

CLASS VII.

53. "That a sum, not exceeding £10,928 (including a Supplementary sum of £4,000), be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for certain Miscellaneous Expenses."

54. "That a sum, not exceeding £20,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for a Grant to the Congested Districts (Scotland) Fund constituted by the Congested Districts (Scotland) Act, 1897, in aid of expenditure in carrying out the purposes of the Act, and for other purposes."

55. "That a sum, not exceeding £14,251, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending

on the 31st day of March, 1900, for the repayment to the Civil Contingencies Fund of certain Miscellaneous Advances."

56. "That a sum, not exceeding £60,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, for a Grant in Aid of the Expenses of the Royal Commission for the British Section at the Paris International Exhibition, 1900."

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1899-1900.

57. "That a sum, not exceeding £305,800, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge for the Pay, &c., of the Medical Establishment, and for Medicines, &c., which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900."

58. "That a sum, not exceeding £571,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge for the Pay, Bounty, &c., of the Militia (to a number not exceeding 131,670, including 30,000 Militia Reserve), which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1900."

59. "That a sum, not exceeding £75,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge for the Pay and Miscellaneous Charges of the Yeomanry Cavalry, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900."

60. "That a sum, not exceeding £624,200, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge for Capitation Grants and Miscellaneous Charges of Volunteer Corps, including Pay, &c., of the Permanent Staff, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900."

*MR. CHANNING: I had put a motion down on this Vote, in order to raise certain points with regard to the financial treatment of the Volunteers, but at this period of the evening I am precluded from doing anything but put a question briefly to any of Her Majesty's Ministers present who may be able to deal with it, since the Minister who represents the War Office is not present. It is well known to all

acquainted with these matters that the cost of providing ranges for the new rifle is very excessive, and I wish to know whether anything can be done in the way of providing further money than is provided out of the Capitation Grant to aid the Volunteer regiments throughout the country to provide themselves with ranges when the ranges of the Regular forces are not available for their use. I understand that a series of regulations have been prepared—I do not know whether they have been presented to the House—in which some further provision or arrangement is made which would facilitate the use by the Volunteers of the ranges available for the Regular forces, and would assign to them some pecuniary aid in taking advantage of these facilities. I may say that this question is a rather urgent one in my own neighbourhood, and so long ago as last autumn I was specially asked to draw attention to it in the House of Commons. The difficulty of obtaining the extra length of range required for the trajectory of the Lee-Metford rifle is very considerable, and the amount of money required in some of these cases by Volunteer regiments was quite beyond their means. I think, therefore, in the interests of the efficiency of the Volunteer force itself, it is only reasonable to press the Government to consider in a broader spirit the provision of further grants to Volunteer corps to meet these expenses. I would therefore ask the Secretary to the Treasury to bring the matter before the War Office, in order that it may be duly dealt with.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: I think the Government ought, when they are running through Supply in this way, to have the members of the Government present who are concerned in the various matters under discussion. On three occasions this evening rather important Votes have been reached, when the Ministers who ought to have been here to answer for their respective Departments have not been present. It is not only an inconvenient arrangement, but it is almost a scandal. [At this point Mr. WYNDHAM entered the House.] I am very sorry that my remarks have not been heard by the Under Secretary for War, and I hope they may be communicated to him. Of course, it is almost useless, on the last day of Supply, to deal at all fully with any matters concerning the various De-

partments, because we know that the House is very anxious to bring Supply to an end. But I think the whole treatment by this House of the Volunteer force really ought next session to receive attention. We spend a great deal of money on the Volunteers, and that money is very cheerfully provided by the country, under the impression that the Volunteers constitute a force of some value. The view that the War Office are more and more taking, however, is rather that the Volunteers are merely a means of advertising the Army and of obtaining recruits. Of course, if the Volunteers are to be considered as a force in themselves, that force is wanting in cavalry and artillery; it is a force of infantry only, unless in some cases the Yeomanry may be considered as the cavalry force of the Volunteer service. Of course, we cannot discuss these matters very fully to-night; all we can do is to give full notice to the War Office that we shall discuss them fully when the next opportunity presents itself.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): I would like, in the first place, to apologise to the hon. Member for East Northamptonshire for not being present when he addressed the House. I understand that he brought before the House the question of ranges for the Volunteers. I can assure the hon. Member that we are fully alive to the new difficulties which have been created by the introduction of a rifle with a longer range; and that we are endeavouring to see that the Volunteers do not suffer owing to the fact that they have been speedily armed with the same weapon as the Regular forces in this country. After the Bill which has now been passed by both Houses, under which a sum of £40,000 will be devoted to existing Volunteers, I think we are entitled to take credit for the fact that this is the first Government which has ever ear-marked such a sum for this particular purpose. I believe that the new regulations in regard to travelling allowances is also a step in the right direction. Coming to the speech of the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean, I must be allowed to disclaim absolutely the view which he has ascribed to us, namely, that we regard the Volunteers merely as machinery for

obtaining recruits for the Army. That is not the case. The Volunteers have never been treated more seriously than they are being treated at this moment. They are now an organised part of our military system, they have their proportionate place in any great national crisis, and we have to bring discipline to bear upon them in a manner which was not the case in days gone by. With regard to the Yeomanry, I would remind the House that they are now being inspected on their capacity to perform outpost duty, and I believe that there are in this country several Yeomanry regiments which could provide at least one squadron, if not two, able to undertake the duties of Divisional cavalry. If that be so, the Yeomanry force does not exist in vain.

Vote agreed to.

61. "That a sum, not exceeding £790,000, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the charge for transport and remounts, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900."

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: On this question the Government have succeeded in showing that they have now begun to increase the number of horses, but the addition has fallen far short of making up for the diminution in previous years, that is to say, although there is an increase over last year and the year before, there is a great diminution upon twenty or twenty-five years ago. The Government justify their position by saying that there was no reserve of horses in those days, and by pointing out that there is now a reserve, and that that reserve may be relied upon; the Government rely upon using in time of war the existing horses for cavalry and guns, and omnibus and other horses for waggons. I cannot but think that, looking at the shortness of field artillery, as compared with infantry, we ought not to be content with drill without waggons. A distinguished artillery colonel has stated that artillery officers in this country do not know what to do with waggons in time of war, because they never drill with them in times of peace. This matter is becoming more and more important every day in view of the certainty of the adoption of quick-firing guns, and it will be absolutely necessary, I think, to

Mr. Wyndham.

drill with waggons in times of peace. I cannot myself think that the Government have yet got a sufficiently high standard before them in regard to the number of horses they keep, either for the cavalry or the artillery. I recognise the fact that they have already made an increase, but it is small.

MR. WYNDHAM: I cannot complain that the right hon. Baronet has revived his criticism on this subject in the earlier part of the session. At that time it was pointed out that there was an increase of 500 horses, and that the introduction of the quick-firing system had thrown this question back into the experimental stage. I may mention that experiments are about to be made in a few days at Okehampton, and this day week 100 guns will be worked together on Salisbury Plain, the Commander-in-Chief and Adjutant-General being present, and, until those who are charged with the responsibility of making recommendations to the Secretary of State have delivered to my noble friend the conclusions at which they arrive, I cannot add to the statement I made at the beginning of the session. I can, however, confirm the promise I then made—viz., that we shall be prepared to accept any conclusions that may be arrived at, and should they entail the necessity for increased expenditure on horses, a Vote will be submitted for the purpose next year.

Vote agreed to.

62. "That a sum, not exceeding £111,100, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge for Establishments for Military Education, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900."

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: I desire to call attention to the limitation in the amount awarded for efficiency in foreign languages, seeming to indicate that this important branch of education is below the desired level. I trust the matter will have the attention of the Under Secretary for War.

Vote agreed to.

63. "That a sum, not exceeding £60,200, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge for Sundry Miscel-

laneous Effective Services, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900."

64. "That a sum, not exceeding £248,300, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge for the Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges of the War Office, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900."

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, North): I desire to draw attention to the question of recruiting, because I look upon it as the most important question connected with the success and future efficiency of the Army. The more we look into this question, the more unsatisfactory we must admit it to be. I need not recapitulate the grave statements made by both the former and the present Secretary for War. Nothing could be stronger than Lord Lansdowne's own statement as to the outlook. For my part, I have always put down the unsatisfactory state of the Army to the system by which we try to obtain our recruits. If you will only narrow the door by which men can enter the Army, you will create a greater desire to join the ranks than if you open the door to everyone. In other words, entrance to the Army should be restricted to men who can give some proof of good moral character. Instead of that, you open the door wide to men, irrespective of age and antecedents, and for that reason so little success has attended the effort to increase the strength of the Army. A most destructive report has been issued with regard to recruiting in the Army—

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. and gallant Member cannot bring forward this question now. Recruiting is specially dealt with in another Vote.

MR. PIRIE: Then I will only press on the Under Secretary the necessity of looking very closely into this question. The facts which have come out are not at all creditable. They show the close

connection there has been between the public-house and the recruiting agency.

Vote agreed to.

65. "That a sum, not exceeding £100, be granted to Her Majesty, to defray the Charge for the Ordnance Factories (the cost of the Productions of which will be charged to the Army, Navy, and Indian and Colonial Governments), which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1900."

SUPPLY [28TH JULY].—REPORT.

Postponed Resolution, "That a sum, not exceeding £31,405, be granted to Her Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1900, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, including a Grant in Aid of certain Expenses connected with Emigration," further considered.

*MR. HEDDERWICK: It was my intention upon this Resolution to raise the question of the policy of the Government in the Protectorate and Colony of Sierra Leone; but at this late hour of the night (9.55) it would be impossible to do so. I must say that we have not been treated very handsomely by the Government in regard to this Vote. I allude to the way in which it has been postponed. But I desire to intimate that I shall call the attention of the House to this question if I can find an opportunity upon the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. In the meantime, to mark my sense of the gravity of the subject, I beg to move the reduction of the Vote by £100.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '£31,405,' and insert '£31,305.'"—(Mr. Hedderwick.)

Question put, "That '£31,405' stand part of the said Resolution."

The House divided:—Ayes, 118; Noes, 29. (Division List No. 361.)

AYES.

Arnold, Alfred
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Barnes, Frederic Gorell
Barton, Dunbar Plunket

Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bethell, Commander
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles

Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burdett-Connors, W.
Butcher, John George

Carlile, William Walter
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
 Chaloner, Captain R. G. W.
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
 Chamberlain, J. Aus'en (Wor'r)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Cochran, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Cooke, C. W. Radcliffe (Heref'd)
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Curzon, Viscount
 Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chatham)
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Drucker, A.
 Duncombe, Hon. Hubert V.
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
 Fellowes, Hon. A. Edward
 Field, Admiral (Eastbourne)
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Flower, Ernest
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Gedge, Sydney
 Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
 Gilliat, John Saunders
 Goldsworthy, Major-General
 Gordon, Hon. John Edward
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
 Goschen, Rt. Hon. G. J. (St. Geo's)

Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
 Greene, W. Raymond. (Camba.)
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gull, Sir Cameron
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
 Hozier, Hon. J. Henry Cecil
 Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
 Jessel, Captain Herbt. Merton
 Johnston, William (Belfast)
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 Lawrence, Sir E. Durning. (Corn)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks.)
 Lea, Sir Thomas (Londonderry)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Llewelyn, Sir Dillwyn. (Swans.)
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Liverpool)
 Lorne, Marquess of
 Lowles, John
 Maclure, Sir John William
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Maxwell, Rt. Hon. Sir H. E.
 Mellor, Colonel (Lancashire)
 Milward, Colonel Victor
 Monk, Charles James
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)

Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pollock, Harry Frederick
 Purvis, Robert
 Ridley, Rt. Hon. Sir M. W.
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Russell, T. W. (Tyrone)
 Scoble, Sir Andrew Richard
 Sidebotham, J. W. (Cheshire)
 Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Edward J. Somerset
 Stanley, Lord (Lanes.)
 Steadman, William Charles
 Stephens, Henry Charles
 Strauss, Arthur
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, W. E. Murray
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E. (Kent)
 Williams, J. Powell. (Birm.)
 Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
 Wyndham, George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

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Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Robert (Durham)
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Curran, Thomas B. (Donegal)
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Gourley, Sir Edward Temperley
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cum'land)

Lewis, John Herbert
 Macaleese, Daniel
 M'Leod, John
 Maddison, Fred.
 Morgan, W. Pritchard (Methyr)
 Moss, Samuel
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 Pickersgill, Edward Hare
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Randell, David
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)

Souttar, Robinson
 Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath)
 Wallace, Robert
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, J. Carvell (Notts.)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Hedderwick and Mr.
 Trevelyan.

It being after Ten of the clock, Mr. Speaker, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 23rd February last, proceeded to put the Question forthwith, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution," that being the only Question necessary to complete the proceedings on the Resolutions reported from the Committee of Supply.

Resolution agreed to.

"That towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, the sum of £55,858,263, be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom."

Resolution agreed to:—Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. James William Lowther, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Hanbury.

CONSOLIDATED FUND (APPROPRIATION) BILL.

"To apply a sum out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred, and to appropriate the Supplies granted in this session of Parliament," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next.

Adjournment—Motion made, and Question, "That this House, at its rising, do adjourn till Monday next."—(*Mr. Balfour*)—put and agreed to.

In pursuance of the Order of the House of the 17th day of July last, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

House adjourned at five minutes after
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 Monday next.

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[AUTHORISED EDITION].

TENTH VOLUME OF SESSION 1899.

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Bills: Read First, Second, or Third Time = 1R., 2R., 3R. [c.] = Commons. [L.] = Lords.
Amendt. = Amendment. *Os.* = Observations. *Qs.* = Questions. *As.* = Answers.
Com. = Committee. *Con.* = Consideration. *Rep.* = Report. *S.* = Debate in Committee
of Supply. Where in the Index * is added with Reading of a Bill, or a Vote in Committee
of Supply, it indicates that no Debate took place on that Stage of the Bill, or on that Vote.
Subjects discussed in Committee of Supply are entered under their headings, and also
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l. Commons Amendts. Aug. 1, 967.

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Q. Sir C. Gull; A. Mr. Hanbury, *Aug. 4*, 1479.**COERCION LAWS, IRELAND, REPEAL**Peace Preservation Act—Mr. Dillon's Amendt. to Expiring Laws Continuance Bill, *Aug. 2*, 1200.**COGHILL, MR. D. H. [Stoke-upon-Trent]**Judges—Appointment of additional Judge for Chancery Division of the High Court, *July 31*, 901.Queen's Bench, Transfer of Judge to Chancery Division, proposed, *July 25*, 246.**COHEN, MR. B. L. [Islington, E.]**Colonial Loans Bill, 2R., *July 31*, 871, 872.Telegraphs [Telephonic Communication, etc.] Bill, *Con.*, *July 25*, 310.**COINS, ROMAN, DISCOVERY AT EASTBOURNE**

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Q. Sir C. Dilke; A. Mr. J. Chamberlain, *Aug. 1*, 1043.

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[For details of discussion, See Names of Colonies receiving Loans.]

COLONIAL OFFICE

Secretary of State—Rt. Hon. J. Chamberlain.

Parliamentary Secretary—Earl of Selborne.

Vote for, *July 23*, 686; *July 31*, 941; *Aug. 4*, 1566—For Subjects discussed on this Vote, See Transvaal, etc.

COLONIAL SERVICES

Vote for, *July 31*, 945; *Aug. 2*, 1208.

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Annual Reports presented, *July 24*, 4, 63; *July 28*, 619, 669; *Aug. 3*, 1229, 1269.

Defences, Expenditure on, Colonial Contribution—References to in Debate on Naval Works Bill, *July 27*, 548, 553, 556.

Miscellaneous Reports presented, *July 24*, 4, 63.

Statistical Abstract presented, *Aug. 4*, 1423, 1466.

University Colleges Reports presented, *July 24*, 4, 62.

COLVILLE, MR. J. [Lanark, N.E.]

O'Neil, B., Death of—Gambling in Scotland, *July 25*, 241.

Telegraphs [Telephonic Communication, etc.] Bill, *Con.*, *July 25*, 307, 312, 353, 358, 359.

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COMMERCE, See Trade and Commerce.

COMMERCIAL ATTACHÉS ABROAD, BRITISH

Increase in Number

Q. Sir S. Northcote; A. Mr. Brod-
 rick, *Aug. 3*, 1289.

COMMISSIONS

Temporary Commissions, Supplementary
 Vote for, *July 31*, 952.

Commons and Open Spaces Bill

- c. 2R., *July 31*, 940.
Com. Aug. 1*, 1137.
Con. and 3R.* Aug. 2*, 1199.
 l. *Commons Amends.*, *Aug. 3*, 1262.

COMPANIES

Winding-up, Report presented, *Aug. 4*, 1424, 1466.

Companies Bill

- l. *Rep.* July 28*, 619.
 3R., *Aug. 3*, 1238.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD, IRELAND

Grant-in-aid, Vote for, *July 31*, 952; *Aug. 2*, 1208.

Offices—Purchase of National Federation
 Offices

Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 25*, 245.

Congested Districts Board [Ireland] Bill

- l. 2R., *July 27*, 439.
Rep. July 28*, 665.
 3R.* *July 31*, 837.
Royal Assent, *Aug. 1*, 965.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD, SCOTLAND

Vote for, *Aug. 4*, 1417.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS [SCOTLAND] BILL

Q. Mr. Caldwell; A. Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 24*, 91.

CONGO STATE

Handing Territories over to the Congolese.
 Warning against
 O. Sir C. Dilke, *Aug. 4*, 1512.

"CONSCIENCE CLAUSE," See Vaccination.

Consolidated Fund [Appropriation] Bill

- c. 1R.* *Aug. 4*, 1568.

CONSOLIDATED FUND [APPROPRIATION] BILL

Resolution in *Com.*, *Aug. 3*, 1419; *Report*, 1567.

CONSTABULARY, ROYAL IRISH

Belfast Constables, Charge against
 Q. Mr. Dillon; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 27*, 512.

Belfast Riots—Removal of Constable Nulty
 Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour, *Aug. 4*, 1489.

Clare County, Extra Police in
 Q. Mr. P. O'Brien; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 24*, 84.

Discharged Soldiers, Employment of—
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 Q. Gen. Russell; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour, *Aug. 1*, 1058.

McHale v. Sullivan, See that Title.

CONSTABULARY, ROYAL IRISH—cont.

Petty Sessions Clerkships—Age Limit

Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour, *Aug. 1, 1057.*

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Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Field; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour, *Aug. 1, 1056.*

Tempo Police Expenses—Lisbellaw Petty Sessions

Q. Mr. Macaleese; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July 28, 680.*Vote for, *Aug. 3, 1411.***CONSTANTINOPLE RIOTS**

British Merchants' Claims for losses—Petition

Q. Mr. Dillon; A. Mr. Brodrick, *Aug. 3, 1282.***CONSULAR ESTABLISHMENTS ABROAD, ETC.**Vote for, *Aug. 3, 1351.***CONSULAR REPORTS, EFFECT OF, ON TRADE**O. Capt. Norton, *Aug. 3, 1365.***CONSULS**

Appointment at Mogador—Petition

Q. Mr. Lough; A. Mr. Brodrick, *July 25, 228.*

British Consul at Smyrna, Charges against

Q. Mr. Dillon; A. Mr. Brodrick, *Aug. 3, 1282.***CONTAGIOUS DISEASES**

Gibraltar

H.M. Ships' Crews

Q. Mr. Pierpoint; A. Mr. Goschen, *July 28, 668.*

Troops—Statistics

Q. Mr. Pierpoint; A. Mr. Wyndham, *July 28, 670.*India—Cantonment Regulations presented, *Aug. 2, 1150; Aug. 3, 1229.*

Straits Settlements—Legislation

Q. Mr. H. J. Wilson; A. Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 27, 494.***CONTAGIOUS DISEASES [ANIMALS] ACT**

Ireland—Local Government Board's Order

Q. Mr. Carew; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour, *Aug. 3, 1299.*

See also Tuberculosis and Swine Fever.

CONTEMPT OF COURT IN THE WEST INDIES—LegislationQ. Mr. T. B. Curran; A. Mr. J. Chamberlain, *Aug. 3, 1277.***CONVICT PRISONS**

Night Watchmen's Saturday Half-holiday Grievance

Q. Mr. Davitt; A. Sir M. W. Ridley, *July 31, 847.*

Treadmills and Cranks, Use of

Q. Mr. Davitt; A. Sir M. W. Ridley, *July 24, 75.***CONVICTS—Case of Mrs. Maybrick**Qs. Mr. Davitt; A. Sir M. W. Ridley, *July 24, 76; July 31, 847.***COOK, F. G.—Postman's Stripe Grievance**Q. Mr. Steadman; A. Mr. Hanbury, *Aug. 1, 1050.***COOPER, T., CASE OF—Fixed Wages for Rural Postmen**Q. Mr. Steadman; A. Mr. Hanbury, *Aug. 3, 1293.***COORG, PROVINCE OF—Conduct of Police, etc.**Q. Mr. Hazell; A. Lord G. Hamilton, *Aug. 4, 1470.***Copyright Bill**l. Rep. from Select Com., *July 24, 5.***Copyright [Artistic] Bill**l. Rep. from Select Com., *July 24, 4.***CORK**

Cattle-carrying Vessels—Disposal of Carcasses washed ashore, Expense falling on Ratepayers

Q. Capt. Donelan; A. Mr. Hanbury, *July 27, 497.*

Post Office, Assistant Superintendent—Appointment from Telegraph Staff

Q. Mr. M. Healy; A. Mr. Hanbury, *Aug. 4, 1482.***CORSTORPHINE SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION**

Murrayfield Home Children

Q. Sir C. Cameron; A. Mr. A. G. Murray, *Aug. 1, 1047.***COTTON FACTORIES**Accidents from Machinery, Prevention of, Report presented, *Aug. 4, 1423, 1467.***COUNTY COUNCILS**Scholarships, Return ordered [Mr. Broadhurst] *July 25, 221.*Science and Art Department, Schedule of Subjects, S., *Aug. 4, 1500.***COUNTY COURT OFFICERS, ETC., IRELAND**Vote for, *Aug. 3, 1411.***COUNTY COURTS**Extension of Jurisdiction—References to in Debate on appointment of additional Judge for the High Court, *July 31, 887, 908.*Plaints and Sittings, Return ordered [Mr. J. Collings] *Aug. 3, 1270.*

Pontypridd, Improved Accommodation

Q. Mr. A. Thomas; A. Mr. Akers-Douglas, *July 28, 677.***COUNTY TREASURES [IRELAND] FEE FUND**Account presented, *Aug. 3, 1230, 1269.*

July 24—August 4.

- COURTNEY, RT. HON. L. H.** [Cornwall, Bodmin]
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- COURTS-MARTIAL, NAVAL**
Criminal Evidence Act
Q. Mr. H. D. Greene; A. Mr. Macartney, *Aug. 4*, 1469.
Returns presented, *Aug. 1*, 969, 1030.
- COVENT GARDEN THEATRE FUND SCHEME**
Q. Mr. Hogan; A. Sir R. B. Finlay, *Aug. 3*, 1298.
- CRANBORNE, VISCOUNT** [Rochester]
Board of Education Bill, *Con.*, *Aug. 1*, 1066, 1084, 1089, 1102, 1127.
Endowed Schools Act Appeals, Respondents, *July 25*, 235.
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- CRANKS, USE OF, IN PRISONS**
Q. Mr. Davitt; A. Sir M. W. Ridley, *July 24*, 75.
- CRETE**
Provisional British Administration in Candia, Report presented, *July 28*, 619, 667.
- CRIME, INCITEMENT TO**, *See* McHale v. Sullivan.
- CRIMEAN VETERANS**
Case of R. Stephenson
Q. Mr. Burt; A. Mr. Wyndham, *July 25*, 222.
- CRIMINAL EVIDENCE ACT**—Naval Courts-martial
Q. Mr. H. D. Greene; A. Mr. Macartney, *Aug. 4*, 1469.
- CRIMINAL LUNATICS**
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Q. Mr. A. O'Connor; A. Sir M. W. Ridley, *Aug. 4*, 1474.
Dundrum Asylum, Vote for, *Aug. 3*, 1414.
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- CRIMPING**
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Q. Mr. Runciman; A. Mr. Brodrick, *Aug. 3*, 1283.
- CRIPPS, MR. C. A.** [Gloucestershire, Stroud]
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- CROFTERS' COMMISSION**
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- CROMBIE, MR. J. W.** [Kincardineshire]
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- CROMER OF CROMER, VISCOUNT**—New Peer, *July 25*, 189.
- Cromer Protection Bill**
c. Con. * *July 26*, 366.
3R. * *July 31*, 839.
l. Commons Amends., *Aug. 4*, 1421.
- CROMWELL'S STATUE**
Erection in grounds of Westminster Palace
Qs. Mr. Brookfield, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Lowther; As. Mr. Akers-Douglas, *Aug. 3*, 1296.
Petition against Erection on Public Land, *Aug. 2*, 1150.
- CROSS, VISCOUNT**—Lord Privy Seal.
Improvement of Land Bill, 2R., *July 31*, 837.
Isle of Man [Customs] Bill, 2R., *July 31*, 829.
Sale of Food and Drugs Bill, 2R., *July 31*, 829, 836; *Com.*, *Aug. 1*, 998, 999, 1000.
- CROWN AGENTS, LOANS TO**—Colonial Loans Bill, Treasury Consent
Q. Mr. Buchanan; A. Sir M. Hicks-Beach.
- CROWN COLONIES, LOANS TO**, *See* Colonial Loans Bill.
- CROWN RIGHTS IN SALMON FISHING, SALE OF**, *S.*, *July 28*, 794.
- CUMBERBATCH, MR.**—British Consul at Smyrna, Charges against
Q. Mr. Dillon; A. Mr. Brodrick, *Aug. 3*, 1282.
- CUMBERLAND**
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Q. Mr. C. Williams; A. Mr. Lawson, *Aug. 4*, 1478.
- CUMMING, J., CASE OF**
Q. Mr. M'Leod; A. Mr. A. G. Murray, *Aug. 3*, 1297.
- CURRAN, MR. T. B.** [Donegal, N.]
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- CURRENCY COMMITTEE, INDIA**
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- CURZON STREET POST OFFICE**
Insanitary Condition—Fema's Telegraphists' Complaints
Q. Col. Dalbiac; A. Mr. Hanbury, *July 31*, 849.

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Debate in Com. of Supply, Aug. 4, 1519.****Loans—Colonial Loans Bill, July 27, 519.****DAIRYING IN IRELAND, DEVELOPING***O. Marquis of Londonderry, July 31, 811.***DALBIAC, COL. P. H. [Camberwell N.]****Curzon Street Post Office, Insanitary Con-
dition — Female Telegraphists' Com-
plaints, July 31, 849.****Paddington Post Office, Sorters' Hours of
Duty, Aug. 4, 1480.****DALZIEL, MR. J. H. [Kirkcaldy Burghs]****Gordon Memorial College at Khartoum
Bill, 2R., July 24, 181.****Land Tax Commissioners' Names Bill,
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mittee, Report presented, July 26, 367 ;
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Brodrick, July 27, 505.***DARTMOOR****Artillery Practice at Okehampton on
August Bank Holiday***Q. Mr. Luttrell ; A. Mr. Wyndham,
July 25, 223.***Darwen Corporation Bill***l. 3R.* July 25, 190.**c. Lords Amends., July 31, 839.***DAVEY, LORD****Small Houses [Acquisition of Ownership]
Bill, Rep., Aug. 1, 987, 989, 990.****Tithe Rent-charge [Rates] Bill, 2R., July
24, 37, 48, 49.****DAVITT, MR. M. [Mayo, S.]****Agriculture and Technical Instruction [Ire-
land] Bill, Con., July 24, 110 ; 3R., July
24, 117.****Antrim County, Fair Rent Appeals—Bel-
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849.****Maybrick, Mrs., Case of, July 24, 76 ;
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24, 75.****Sierra Leone, Rising in—Sir D. Chalmers'
Report, July 24, 65.****Transvaal, Manufacture of Calcium Car-
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Epileptic Children] Bill.****DEFENCE WORKS****Concealment as to works abroad, etc.—
References to in Debate on Military
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adjourn***Q. Mr. W. Abraham ; A. Mr. G. W.
Balfour, Aug. 3, 1301.***DELAGOA BAY RAILWAY****Bondholders' Claims—Arbitration Award
Q. Mr. Brookfield ; A. Mr. Brodrick,
July 25, 229.****Court of Arbitration, Death of Jurists,
Effect of***Q. Mr. Brookfield ; A. Mr. Brodrick,
July 28, 673.***DEM NATIONAL SCHOOL—Reduction of Mr.
Galligan's Salary***Q. Mr. P. O'Brien ; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour,
Aug. 1, 1059.***DENBIGH, EARL OF****Congested Districts Board [Ireland] Bill,
2R., July 27, 439.****Small Houses [Acquisition of Ownership]
Bill, Com., July 25, 201, 210, 211, 213 ;
Rep., Aug. 1, 992.****Derby Corporation Tramways, etc., Bill***c. Lords Amends., July 26, 366.**l. Royal Assent, Aug. 1, 966.*

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Testing Brewers' Casks—Deposit
Q. Mr. Yoxall; A. Mr. Ritchie,
July 31, 851.

DERELICT RAILWAY, PARSONSTOWN AND
PORTUMNA, RECONSTRUCTION OF

Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour,
Aug. 1, 1060.

Derwent Valley Water Bill

l. Rep. from Select Com., July 25, 189.

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c. Lords Amendts., Aug. 4, 1451.

DEVONPORT—Keyham Extension Works, *See*
Keyham.

DEVONSHIRE, DUKE OF—*Lord President of*
the Council

Board of Education Bill, *Commons*
Amendts., Aug. 4, 1448.

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1009.

DEWAR, MR. A. [Edinburgh, S.]

Edinburgh Museum Attendants' Pension
—Case of W. Samuel, *July 27, 509;*
July 28, 676.

DILKE, RT. HON. SIR C. W. [Gloucester
Forest of Dean]

Abbot's Wood, Proposed purchase by
Woods and Forests Department, *Aug. 2,*
1206.

Africa, British in — Martyr and Juba
Expeditions, etc., *Aug. 4, 1510.*

Africa, South, Cables—Subsidised Com-
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Aug. 4, 1530.

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Education, Amounts awarded for
Foreign Languages, *Aug. 4, 1564.*

Expenditure on Military Works and
Barracks, *July 31, 844.*

Bangkok-Khorat Railway Contract—Case
of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and
Company, *July 28, 673.*

Bottle-washing in Fruit Preserving
Factories — Overtime Employment of
Women, *July 27, 507.*

Commissions—Local Taxation Commis-
sion, etc., *July 31, 952.*

Commons and Open Spaces Bill, *2R., July*
31, 941.

Factories and Workshops—Annual Report,
etc., *Aug. 4, 1537.*

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Aug. 3, 1280.

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Wagons, etc., *Aug. 4, 1563.*

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Naval Works Bill, *Com.*—Construction of
Naval Docks, etc., *July 27, 556.*

Nigeria, Legal Status of Slavery, etc.,
July 28, 788.

Ordnance Survey—Carelessness in record-
ing Names, *Aug. 4, 1531.*

"Parliamentary Debates" — Reporters'
Fees, etc., *Aug. 3, 1315.*

Royal Niger Company Bill, *Com., July 26,*
410, 422, 425, 426.

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Absence of Ministers during dis-
cussions, *Aug. 4, 1561.*

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Aug. 4, 1493.

Subjects discussed in Committee of
Supply, *See* their Titles.

Volunteers, Treatment of, by the War
Office, *Aug. 4, 1561.*

Waima Incident, Claims for Compensation,
Aug. 4, 1548.

Zanzibar, Slave Trade, *Aug. 3, 1351.*

DILLON, MR. J. [Mayo, E.]

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motion of Major Parsons, *Aug. 3, 1275.*

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Constantinople Riots, British Merchants'
Claims for Losses—Petition, *Aug. 3,*
1282.

Cyprus, Island of, Improved condition
—Finance, etc., *Aug. 4, 1529.*

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olics' Grievances, *Aug. 3, 1334, 1339.*

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South Africa, etc., *July 24, 65.*

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Royal Niger Company Bill, *Com.*, July 26, 370, 383, 384, 385, 398, 399, 400, 410, 421, 424, 425, 426; *3R.*, July 27, 532, 535.

Smyrna—British Consul, Charges against, *Aug.* 3, 1282.

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Subjects discussed in Committee of Supply, *See* their Titles.

Telegraphs [Telephonic Communication, etc.] Bill, *Con.*, *July* 25, 348, 352.

Transvaal Question, *July* 28, 729.

DILLON, MR., AND THE AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION [IRELAND] BILL

O. Marquess of Londonderry, *July* 31, 812.

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O. Mr. Hedderwick, *July* 27, 579.

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Constabulary Royal Irish, and Dublin Metropolitan Police, Employment in—Restrictions

Q. Gen. Russell; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour, *Aug.* 1, 1058.

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Q. Gen. Russell; A. Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July* 25, 247.

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Granard Union, Doctor's Salary

Q. Mr. Blake; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour, *Aug.* 4, 1491.

Holidays, Payment of Substitutes—Cork Doctors

Q. Capt. Donelan; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July* 24, 85.

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Protest against Local Government Order

Q. Mr. M'Cartan; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July* 25, 244.

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DIXON-HARTLAND, SIR F. D. [Middlesex, Uxbridge]

Accountant-General of the Court of Chancery—Clerks' Pensions, *July* 27, 502.

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Os. Sir J. Colomb, *July* 25, 287; Lord C. Beresford, 291.

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Merchant Vessels—Committee Recommendations

Q. Mr. Johnston; A. Mr. Ritchie, *July* 31, 850.

DOGS, MUZZLING, *See* Muzzling Order.

DONEGAL FISHING COMPANY

Appeal under Factories Act

Q. Mr. Tennant; A. Sir M. W. Ridley, *July* 28, 674.

DONELAN, CAPT. A. J. C. [Cork, E.]

Cattle-carrying Vessels—Disposal of carcasses washed ashore, Expense falling on Ratepayers, *July* 27, 497.

Dispensary Doctors' Holidays—Payment of Substitutes, Cork Doctors, *July* 24, 85.

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Milk Adulteration—Penalties, *Aug.* 3, 1300.

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DOOGAN, MR. P. C. [Tyrone, E.]

Dungannon—Application to be constituted as Urban Sanitary District, *July* 31, 853.

DOUGHTY, MR. G. [Great Grimsby]

Barracks—Temperance Rooms, *July* 27, 602.

DOUGLAS, RT. HON. A. AKERS—Chief Commissioner of Works [Kent, St. Augustines]

Cromwell's Statue, Erection of, *Aug.* 3, 1297.

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Pontypridd County Courts—Improved Accommodation, *July* 28, 678.

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Naval Works—References to in Debate on Naval Works Bill, *July* 25, 275, 284, 300; *July* 27, 554.

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District Council—Local Government Order, Protest against

Q. Mr. M'Cartan; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour, *July* 25, 244.

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DRAGE, MR. G. [Derby]

Transvaal — Disqualification of Roman Catholics for Government Appointments, *July 25, 226.*

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Q. Mr. P. O'Brien; A. Mr. Long, Aug. 3, 1288.

Factories Act, Appeal Case—*Paterson v. Donegal Fishing Company*

Q. Mr. Tennant; A. Sir M. W. Ridley, July 28, 674.

Kildare Street Library, *See that Title.*

Metropolitan Police

Compulsory Retirement

Q. Mr. Field; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour, Aug. 1, 1058.

Discharged Soldiers, Employment of

Q. Gen. Russell; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour, Aug. 1, 1058.

Purchase of Goods Regulations

Q. Mr. Clancy; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour, Aug. 3, 1302.

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National Federation Offices, Purchase for Congested Districts Board Offices

Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour, July 25, 245.

Peace Preservation Act Prosecution

Q. Mr. Clancy; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour, July 24, 90.

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Q. Mr. P. O'Brien; A. Mr. Atkinson, Aug. 1, 1060.

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Q. Mr. P. O'Brien; A. Mr. Hanbury, Aug. 1, 1054.

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l. Rep. from Select Com., July 25, 190.

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c. Lords Amendts., Aug. 1, 1013, 1029.

l. Commons Amendts., etc., Aug. 3, 1209.

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l. Rep. from Select Com., July 25, 189.

3R. July 28, 617.*

c. Lords Amendts., Aug. 1, 1013.

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Q. Mr. Hayden; A. Mr. J. P. Williams, Aug. 1, 1038.

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Q. Admiral Field; A. Sir M. W. Ridley, Aug. 4, 1473.

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Q. Mr. H. D. Greene; A. Lord G. Hamilton, Aug. 3, 1275.

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Q. Mr. Dewar; A. Sir J. Gorst, July 27, 509; Q. Mr. Dewar; A. Mr. Hanbury, July 28, 676.

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Q. Mr. Steadman; A. Mr. Hanbury, Aug. 4, 1480.

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Q. Mr. J. Wilson; A. Mr. Hanbury, Aug. 1, 1050.

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l. Commons Amends., Aug. 4, 1449.

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tinental Manufacturers**

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l. Royal Assent, Aug. 1, 965.

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l. Royal Assent, Aug. 1, 965.

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14] Bill**

l. Royal Assent, Aug. 1, 965.

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l. Royal Assent, Aug. 1, 965.

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l. 3R. July 24*, 3.

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l. Rep. from Select Com., July 25, 190.

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l. Commons Amends., Aug. 4, 1448.

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*l. 1R.** Aug. 1, 1012.

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Q. Sir C. Dilke, Aug. 4, 1564.

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l. Commons Amendts., Aug. 1, 967.

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Q. Mr. Warner; A. Mr. Wyndham, Aug. 1, 1037.**LIFEBOAT SURPRISE PRACTICE — Coast Telephonic Communication**

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l. Royal Assent, Aug. 1, 965.

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l. Royal Assent, Aug. 1, 965.

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l. Royal Assent, Aug. 1, 965.

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l. Royal Assent, Aug. 1, 965.

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c. Lords Amendts., July 25, 217.

l. Royal Assent, Aug. 1, 965.

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l. Rep. July 25*, 190.

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l. 2R. July 24*, 3.

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c. Lords Amendts., July 27, 480.

l. Royal Assent, Aug. 1, 967.

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l. Rep. July 25*, 189.

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l. 3R. July 27*, 433.

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l. 3R. Aug. 3*, 1209.
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l. Royal Assent, *Aug. 1*, 966.

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l. Royal Assent, *Aug. 1*, 967.

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c. Rep. July 25*, 218.
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l. Commons Amends., *Aug. 4*, 1422.

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**LONG, RT. HON. W. H.—President of the
Board of Agriculture [Liverpool, West
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Lowestoft Promenade Pier Bill

l. *Royal Assent*, *Aug. 1*, 966.

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Yorkshire, W.R. Pauper Lunatic Asylums—Roman Catholic Inmates
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Q. Mr. A. O'Connor; A. Sir M. W. Ridley, *Aug. 4*, 1474.

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lin, *Aug. 3, 1291.*

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- Q. Mr. A. Moore; A. Mr. Collings,
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- Q. Sir J. Colomb; A. Mr. Goschen,
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- c. 2R.* July 31, 939
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- c. 3R.* July 25, 217.
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- l. Royal Assent, Aug. 1, 996.

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F. Long, Treasury Minute presented,
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Q. Mr. J. H. Wilson; A. Mr. Chaplin, Aug. 3, 1291.

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Q. Mr. Channing; A. Mr. Chaplin, Aug. 3, 1291.

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Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour, Aug. 4, 1491.

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July 28, 667.

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l. Commons Amends., Aug. 1, 967.

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l. 1R. Aug. 1, 1012.*

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RIDLEY, RT. HON. SIR M. W.—*Secretary for the Home Department* [Lancashire, Blackpool]

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Sheerness, Sunday trading at—Penalties, *Aug. 4, 1476.*

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Q. Mr. Warner; A. Mr. Wyndham, *Aug. 1, 1037.*
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RITCHIE, RT. HON. C. T.—*President of the Board of Trade* [Croydon]

- Alien Immigration, Control of—Legislation, *Aug. 4, 1477.*
- Boy Sailors—Mercantile Marine Fund Act proposals, *July 28, 674.*
- Brewers' Casks, testing, under Weights and Measures Act—Derbyshire County Council deposit, *July 31, 851.*
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- Thornton Junction Station entrances—Inspectors' Report, *July 25, 231.*

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ROBERTS, MR. J. B. [Carnarvonshire, Eifion]

- Transvaal Question, *July 28, 748.*
- Franchise and Naturalisation, *July 27, 506.*
- Uitlanders' Petitions, Gennineness of, *Aug. 3, 1276.*

ROBERTS, MR. J. H. [Denbighshire, W.]

- Agricultural Education Grants—Increase in Welsh Grant, etc., *Aug. 4, 1477.*
- Colonial Loans Bill, *Com., Aug. 2, 1153, 1165, 1166.*

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ROBERTSON, MR. E. [Dundee]

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Q. Mr. S. Smith; A. Mr. Wyndham, July 28, 669.

ROBSON, MR. W. S. [South Shields]

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Rochdale Canal Bill

c. Rep. July 25, 218.*

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3R. Aug. 3, 1263.*

l. Commons Amendts., Aug. 4, 1422.

ROLLIT, SIR A. K. [Islington, S.]

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Q. Lord E. Talbot; A. Sir W. M. Ridley, July 25, 236.

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Q. Admiral Field; A. Sir M. W. Ridley, Aug. 4, 1473.

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Q. Lord E. Fitzmaurice; A. Mr. Brodrick, July 27, 505.

ROUND, MR. J. [Essex, Harwich]

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ROXBOROUGH ROAD SCHOOLS SCHEME

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c. Com., July 26, 370.

3R., July 27, 521.

l. 1R. July 28, 619.*

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RUNCIMAN, MR. W. [Oldham]

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RUSSELL, GEN. F. S. [Cheltenham]

Discharged Soldiers, Employment of—Royal Irish Constabulary, and Dublin Metropolitan Police, *Aug. 1, 1058.*

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RUSSELL, MR. T. W.—Secretary to the Local Government Board [Tyrone, S.]

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Return presented, *July 28, 668.*

RYDER, MR. J. H. D. [Gravesend].

Thames River, Pollution between London and Purfleet, *Aug. 1, 1048.*

SAILORS, See Seamen.**ST. HELENA**

Annual Report presented, *Aug. 3, 1229, 1269.*

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Loan for—References to, in Debate on Colonial Loans Bill, *July 27*, 519; *Aug. 2*, 1161, 1162.

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c. Con. July 24*, 93.
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l. 1R. July 27*, 469.
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Q. Capt. Donelan; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour, Aug. 3, 1300.

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Q. Sir T. Lea; A. Mr. A. J. Balfour, Aug. 4, 1492.

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c. Con. and 3R.* Aug. 2*, 1145.
l. Commons Amendments., Aug. 4, 1421.

SALISBURY, MARQUESS OF—Premier and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Agriculture and Technical Instruction [Ireland] Bill, *July 25*, 191; *Com., Aug. 1*, 997.

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Small Houses [Acquisition of Ownership] Bill, *Com., July 25*, 202, 208.

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Os. Mr. T. Buchanan, Sir M. Hicks-Beach, July 31, 879.

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Ireland—Decrease of Salmon in Barrow and Nore Rivers
Q. Mr. P. O'Brien; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour, July 24, 88.

Sale of Crown Rights, *S., July 28*, 794.

Salmon Fisheries [Scotland] Bill

l. 1R., Aug. 4, 1424.

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Q. Mr. Macaleese; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour, July 28, 682.

Dungannon—Application to be constituted as Urban Sanitary District

Q. Mr. Doogan; A. Mr. G. W. Balfour, July 31, 853.

SAUNDERSON, COL. [Armagh, North]

Transvaal Question, *July 28*, 721.

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References to in Debate on the Board of Education Bill, *Aug. 1*, 1121, 1122, 1123

SCHOOL BOARD REGISTERS

Parochial and School Board Elections—Compiling List of Voters
Q. Mr. Moss; A. Sir J. Gorst, Aug. 3, 1298.

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Q. Sir J. Kennaway; A. Sir J. Gorst, July 31, 846.

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London School Board, illegal expenditure on Science and Art, *S., Aug. 4*, 1501, 1504.

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SCIENCE AND ART DEPARTMENT—*cont.*

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South Kensington Museum Art Assistant Appointment

Q. Mr. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, Aug. 4, 1482.

Summary of Regulations for 1900 presented, *July 27*, 435, 488.

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O. Mr. G. Bowles, *July 25*, 285.

SCOBLE, SIR A. [Hackney, Central]

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Secretary for Scotland—Lord Balfour of Burleigh.

Lord Advocate — Rt. Hon. A. G. Murray.

Solicitor General—Mr. Scott C. Dickson.

Barracks, Construction of—Debate on Military Works Bill, *July 27*, 572.

Ben Nevis Observatory, *See that Title*.

Congested Districts Board, Vote for, *Aug. 4*, 1417.

Criminal Lunatics, Vote for, *Aug. 3*, 1406.

Crofters' Commission, Vote for, *Aug. 3*, 1405.

Edinburgh, Questions relating to, *For Collective Heading, See Edinburgh*.

Education, Public and Science and Art, Vote for, *Aug. 3*, 1326.

Embo Fisherman's Fines—Case of J. Cumming

Q. Mr. M'Leod; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *Aug. 3*, 1297.

Falkirk Level Crossing

Q. Mr. J. Wilson; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *July 27*, 497.

Fine or Imprisonment [Scotland and Ireland] Act, Rules under

Q. Sir C. Cameron; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *July 23*, 680.

Fishery Board, Vote for, *Aug. 3*, 1401.

Fraserburgh Light Railway Order

Q. Mr. Buchanan; *A.* Mr. Long, *Aug. 3*, 1287.

Gambling Dispute between B. O'Neil and P. Kelly—Death of B. O'Neil

Q. Mr. Colville; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *July 25*, 241.

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Q. Mr. Buchanan; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *July 27*, 511.

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Q. Sir C. Cameron; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *Aug. 1*, 1061.

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Q. Sir C. Cameron; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *July 27*, 510.

Law Charges and Courts of Law, Vote for, *Aug. 3*, 1405.

Local Government Board, Vote for, *Aug. 3*, 1403.

Lord Advocate's Department, Vote for, *Aug. 3*, 1405.

Lunacy Commission, Vote for, *Aug. 3*, 1317.

Militia, Conveyance of—Return of Royal Scots Battalion to Glencorse

Q. Marquess of Lothian; *A.* Marquess of Lansdowne, *Aug. 4*, 1449.

National Gallery, etc., Vote for, *Aug. 3*, 1333.

Orkney Procurator-Fiscal—Appointment as Auditor of Kirkwall burgh accounts

Q. Mr. Hedderwick; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *Aug. 4*, 1489.

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Corstorphine School Accommodation

Q. Sir C. Cameron; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *Aug. 1*, 1047.

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Q. Sir C. Cameron; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *July 25*, 242.

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Pauper Patients, Removal of—Police Regulations

Q. Sir C. Cameron; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *July 25*, 240.

Peterhead Harbour of Refuge, Vote for, *Aug. 3*, 1307.

"Police Gazette," Establishment of, proposed

Q. Mr. Pirie; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *July 31*, 845.

Post Office Split Duties Grievance

Q. Mr. T. O'Connor; *A.* Mr. Hanbury, *July 25*, 238.

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Q. Sir C. Cameron; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *July 25*, 241.

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Thornton Junction Station Entrances—
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Q. Mr. Birrell; A. Mr. Ritchie, *July*
25, 231.

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SEA FISHERIES

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Q. Mr. Harwood; A. Mr. Long, *Aug.*
3, 1285.

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Bilbao—Imprisonment of British Sailor
Q. Mr. Johnson; A. Mr. Brodrick,
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Crofters' Commission—£3,000, *Com.** Aug. 3, 1405; *Rep.** Aug. 4, 1557.

Fishery Boards and Grants-in-aid of Piers, etc.—£16,169, *Com.** Aug. 3, *Rep.** Aug. 4, 1556.

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Lord Advocate's Department—Law Charges and Courts of Law—£60,806, *Com.** Aug. 3, 1405; *Rep.** Aug. 4, 1557.

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Peterhead Harbour—£17,500, *Com.*, Aug. 3, 1307; *Rep.** Aug. 4, 1495.

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Public Education and Science and Art—£701,861, *Com.*, Aug. 3, 1326; *Rep.** Aug. 4, 1509.

Registrar-General's Office—£2,829, *Com.** Aug. 3, 1317; *Rep.** Aug. 4, 1497.

Register House, Edinburgh—£29,565, *Com.** Aug. 3, 1405; *Rep.** Aug. 4, 1557.

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Stationery and Printing—£329,579, *Com.*, Aug. 3, 1308; *Rep.** Aug. 4, 1495.

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Telegraph Companies Subsidies—£36,241, *Com.** Aug. 3, 1375; *Rep.*, Aug. 4, 1530.

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Uganda, British Protectorates in, etc., Grant-in-aid—£154,463, *Com.** Aug. 3, 1369; *Rep.*, Aug. 4, 1510.

Universities and Colleges, Great Britain and Intermediate Education, Wales—£67,700, *Com.** Aug. 3, 1325; *Rep.** Aug. 4, 1509.

Wallace Collection—£6,000, *Com.*, Aug. 3, 1325; *Rep.** Aug. 4, 1509.

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Q. Mr. Carew; A. Mr. Long, Aug. 3, 1288.

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